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in seclusion from the constant occupation of active life.

He has now for upwards of twenty-five years been in the habit of studying religious works ; first, for his own edification, and in the latter period also, in connexion with his ministerial and public duties. In that period, circumstances have led him to much intercourse with his Brethren in the Ministry, in different parts of the country, and this has often given him valuable hints from the experience of others. Having also acquired the habit of reading while travelling ; his frequent journies in the work of the Society have enabled him to read through many books of which he otherwise should have been ignorant.

In some parts of the work, and especially in the outlines of the History of Divinity, he had the opportunity of frequent discussions on the different sections with brethren with whom he is in the habit of meeting. Imperfect as the outlines may now be, they would have been much more defective but for this advantage.

Mr. Horne's valuable Catalogue of Queen's College Library at Cambridge furnished him with the divisions, and suggested the names of many of the books under those divisions, in the chapter entitled the Minister's Library. The more practical parts of the work came, as was the case in his former publications, in a course of Sermons, preached to his congregation at Wheler Chapel.

But, with every advantage that he may have had, he is conscious of defects in the work which he cannot remedy. Did he not hope, that, notwithstanding those defects, it might be of use, he should have withheld it ; or had he any reason to think that delay

THE CHRISTIAN STUDENT

DESIGNED

TO ASSIST CHRISTIANS IN GENERAL
IN ACQUIRING RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE.

WITH LISTS OF BOOKS,
ADAPTED TO THE VARIOUS CLASSES OF SOCIETY.

BY THE REV. E. BICKERSTETH,
MINISTER OF SIR GEORGE WHEELER'S CHAPEL, SPITAL SQUARE.

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PREFACE.

THE Author gladly avails himself of the opportunity afforded by a Preface, of stating the circumstances under which this work has been prepared. He had some years since written a chapter on the Study of Divinity, which was published in 1825, in his Treatise entitled 'The Christian Hearer;' but, having been led more to consider the importance of theological study; in subsequent editions of the Christian Hearer he omitted that chapter, stating, that it was his intention, if it should please God, to publish it separately in an enlarged form, under the title of 'The Christian Student.'

His incessant occupations in connexion with the Church Missionary Society have hindered him from fulfilling that intention, for a longer period than he anticipated: though he has kept it in view, he has been able to give to it but scattered fragments of time. It is right candidly to state, that this work is published with the disadvantage of his generally not having been able to give any uninterrupted time and attention to it, beyond a short period early in the morning or late in the evening, and often even this at widely intervening opportunities.

But, though unable to give to it continued application or unbroken attention, he has had some advantages which he *hopes may tend to make the work more practically useful than if composed entirely*

in their respective proportions light and joy to the Christian Student.

It is highly gratifying to know that much is done by pious persons in the upper ranks of life, in purchasing and widely distributing Religious Works. A very considerable portion of these works is purchased to be given away, and thus the good done by them has been much occasioned by the liberal zeal and love of those who have freely circulated them. The Author will rejoice if his lists furnish any assistance to such benevolent persons in the selection of works for distribution.

Another part of this work, to which he has already adverted, the outlines of the History of Divinity, was entered on with much fear. He thought that it might materially facilitate the studies of the young, if such an outline could be accomplished, but has felt utterly incompetent to present more than an outline, in which he is sensible that there must be many deficiencies. He has considered it best, with all openness, but he trusts in the spirit of love, freely to mention what he feels to be objectionable in any author. It may encourage such a candid statement of objections to look forward to the period, when, if they are really well founded, the authors of the objectionable sentiments will be the very first to thank one who may have helped to neutralize any thing of an injurious tendency. But he could often speak only in general terms. A complete history of theological literature by one competent to give it from mature knowledge both of the scriptures and of human authors, would indeed be a valuable accession to the cause of truth. There will ever be a serious difficulty while attaining *knowledge*, in preserving the mind free from the bias

man opinions, and giving to the scriptures alone entire confidence, that full and unbounded authority which they ought ever to have as the infallible empire of Divine Truth.

When we consider the extensive range of theology, morally impossible that any one can have both fully and fully studied all its various branches. Subjects which he felt peculiarly delicate or delicate, or with which he felt less acquainted, he has the sentiments of the best authors that he knew how to give a scriptural judgment. But feeling defective all human judgment must be, he cannot be conscious that he has often probably failed

his discrimination and decision. The great God at hand and will soon disclose all. But in the mean time, if he can in some feeble measure subserve the progress of divine knowledge, and of that holiness, in which, no man shall see the Lord, he shall not have laboured in vain.

In reference to courses of study, as the variety of human minds makes it impossible that one plan can be suitable or satisfactory to all, so different plans may yet tend to the same result. He has not the least idea of setting up his judgment as the only standard, or that his plans are free from errors and omissions; it is merely the opinion of an individual.

Added, in the Treatise throughout, the Author has endeavored to keep far from assuming the office of a teacher, and to send it forth with the feeling that he is a learner, and not a master; a scholar in that school, where there is but one master, even Christ, and where all disciples are brethren. Though he has been *not to state opinions adopted hastily, or without*

reflection, yet he will strive against that corrupt principle of our hearts which leads us because we have given an opinion, to refuse under sufficient evidence to retract it. He will endeavour thankfully to avail himself of any remarks that may be kindly, or even unkindly, made on the present work, and should future editions be called for, he will try to correct any thing that he shall be convinced is incorrect.

The little time which he could spare for such a work has led him to far more frequent quotation than he should otherwise have felt justified in giving. At the risk of making the work less original, but in the hope that it may not be less useful, he has freely availed himself of the sentiments of others, whenever he could in their words express his own. He has thus been able often to give, not only a valuable sentiment, but a weighty authority for that sentiment at the same time.

He has generally taken his extracts from the original works, and referred to them; but in a few instances he has not, and, having omitted to notice at the time to whom he was indebted for the quotation, he cannot now supply the deficiency; he has also often been indebted to others for ideas which he has expressed in his own words. He is anxious to make these acknowledgements lest he should have credit for originality of thought where he is not entitled to it.

May that gracious Saviour in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, be more and more revealed by his Spirit and through His word to every Christian Student, till the time arrive *when all shall know the Lord, from the least to the greatest.*

Islington, April 22, 1829.

CHAPTER I.

THE USEFULNESS OF THEOLOGICAL STUDY TO CHRISTIANS.

THE Christian is placed by his heavenly Father in this world as in a school to prepare him for his future and everlasting life. Every thing which he sees around him, and which he passes through, all the works of creation, and all the wonders of providence, daily bring before him lessons in that pure and heavenly wisdom which he has to acquire to make him meet for that inheritance, which fadeth not away.

The Christian student is one who is constantly receiving instruction, and gaining knowledge to fit him for serving God on earth, and for the higher and more blessed service in which he hopes to spend a happy eternity.

The design of this work chiefly is to set before him the best method of pursuing theological studies: that is, the study of human writings, in connexion with a supreme regard to the word of God, in order that he may become *instructed unto the kingdom of heaven*. The wish of the author is so to assist him that he may, if a private Christian, be enabled *always to give an answer to every man that asketh him a reason of the hope that is in him, with meekness and fear*; and, if purposing to fulfil the more arduous office of a Christian minister, *he may be directed to those studies which may better fit him for being a workman that*

needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

A Christian divine, in the true sense of the words, is the highest and most blessed character on earth. Witsius happily describes it: ‘By a Divine I understand one who, imbued with the solid knowledge of God and divine things, God Himself being the Teacher, not by words only but by the whole course of his life, sets forth and celebrates the admirable virtues of God, and so is wholly devoted to His glory. Such were in former days the holy patriarchs, such the divinely inspired prophets, such the apostolic teachers of the whole world, such some of those whom we call Fathers, widely shining lights of the primitive Church.’¹

To attain this character, study is, among other things, indispensably requisite. When divine revelation was first committed to writing, it became a duty, a privilege, and a blessing, to read that writing. Respecting this duty there will, among Christians, be little difference of opinion.

The advantages of a written statement of opinions being perceived, books multiplied, even before the coming of Christ, to a vast extent. Hence in the days of Solomon, it was asserted, *of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.* The Alexandrine library, burnt about fifty years before Christ, is said to have contained 400,000 manuscript volumes.

The invention of printing immensely increased the number of copies of books, and the facilities of access

¹ See his Oration on the True Theologian, in the 2d vol. of his *Miscellanea Sacra*, 553.

in them. There are doubtless evils inseparable from these advantages. Where books have an improper or evil tendency, the harm done becomes far more extensive; and the very multitude of books adds to the difficulty of choice and selection, and disposes the supine and indolent to sit down in contented ignorance. Pride and vanity are also fostered by mere literary acquisitions; and the possession of religious knowledge may be fatally but easily mistaken for the possession of real religion.

It is perfectly true, that not merely human learning, but scriptural knowledge in its highest degree (*prophecy and understanding all mysteries and all knowledge*), may be vain and unprofitable. A church may be *enriched with all knowledge, and come behind in no gift*, and yet be *carnal and walk according to man*.

There are also sorrows in knowledge from which the ignorant are free: we discover many evils which we could not before discern; we perceive an unexpected darkness where we thought all was light; we sometimes ourselves mistake error for truth; and doubts are excited where none existed before; but still, whatever sorrows attend wisdom, it *excelleth folly as far as light excelleth darkness*; much of this sorrow is real gain in the result; to be exempt from it through ignorance is no real advantage. It is better to know that evil which we may correct, than to slumber on in ignorance till all be lost.

After making then every abatement which such considerations suggest or require, real religion has all along been vastly advanced by means of learning.

It is of *written books* that David gives those high commendations. *The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is*

pure, enlightening the eyes ; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. It is of written books that our Saviour says, Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have everlasting life, and they are they which testify of me. And the Apostle declares that they are able to make wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

These things are spoken of inspired books. But we have no reason to think that the Apostle, when he told Timothy to *give attendance to reading*, wished him to confine his attention to the records of inspiration only ; especially since he himself quoted heathen writers (as Aratus, a Greek poet, Acts xvii. 28 ; and Epimenides, a Cretan, Titus i. 12.), in order to illustrate the truths which he wished to impress.

The scriptures speak much in favour of knowledge in general. Thus it is said, *That the soul be without knowledge, it is not good*, Prov. xix. 2. *The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge*, Prov. xviii. 15. *Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge*, Prov. xxii. 17. *The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge*, Prov. xv. 14. *The excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it*, Eccles. vii. 12. These passages apply, in the highest sense, to scriptural and divine knowledge, but comprehend knowledge in general, and especially whatever facilitates the acquisition of that which is divine and scriptural.

The Holy Scriptures state in strong terms the danger of wanting knowledge, both as it respects ministers and people. *My people are destroyed for*

lack of knowledge : because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me. Hosea iv. 6. Isaiah speaks in a similar way of the evils of having no knowledge, Isaiah v. 13.

The apostle Paul in the first epistle to the Corinthians, has placed this subject in a clear light. He commences the twelfth chapter with stating that he *would not have them ignorant, concerning spiritual gifts.* He then shows the nature of those gifts, some of which were miraculous and peculiar to that age, and others needful in all ages. He tells them to *covet earnestly the best gifts ;* and in the thirteenth chapter, shows the superior excellence of charity, but not to the disparagement of other gifts ; for in the fourteenth, he charges them to *desire spiritual gifts,* and in verse 12 bids them *seek to excel to the edifying of the church.* Great then as is the value, and supreme as is the importance of the graces of the Christian, they must not exclude a holy diligence to acquire those gifts *of the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, divers kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues,* which are profitable to our own edification, and to the edification of the church.¹

It is fully admitted that there are many devout, holy, heavenly-minded. Christians, who are thoroughly versed in the Scriptures, but have little or none of what is reckoned human learning : real piety may consist with considerable deficiencies in learning. And again, a man may have an extensive knowledge of languages, he may know the whole theory of religion

¹ See an excellent sermon entitled 'Academical Studies subservient to the edification of the Church,' by the Rev. H. Venn.

and be able to defend it most ably and skilfully against its most subtle opponents; he may have the intellectual powers and stores of a Warburton or a Horsley, and yet not have that experience of the truth in its sanctifying influence on his own heart, which manifests itself in meekness, humility, forbearance, brotherly kindness, devotion, and the whole spirit of the Christian. Dr. Buchanan justly observes that 'we must not confound two terms, a Theologian and a Christian. That which constitutes a Christian is *faith, hope, and charity, these three*. Much human learning is not essentially necessary to constitute a Christian. Indeed a man may be a profound Theologian, and not be a Christian at all. He may be learned in the doctrines and history of Christianity, and yet be a stranger to the fruits of Christianity: He may be destitute of faith, of hope, and charity.'

Yet we must not from the abuse of a thing despise it altogether. Perhaps those Christians, or at least many of them, who are now nourished by the Scriptures only, received their first religious impressions through human books. If we look at the general state of the church, how few eminent Christians are there who have not been greatly indebted to religious books, either for their first impressions, or for much of that knowledge by which they have acquired enlarged and correct views of divine truth, and pursued a wise and holy conduct: how few have been extensively useful to others who have not themselves been benefited by study. Hardly any Christians are there who have not in one way or other received much advantage from human writings. It has, unquestionably, pleased God to carry on His own kingdom, and promote the spiritual welfare of His people by means of human writings.

Undoubtedly, in those of His servants, there has been the manifestation of the Spirit given to every man to profit withal. Nor can we suppose that so many holy and wise individuals, who have communicated their thoughts to the world, after long, and deep, and devotional study of the sacred writings, can have thus laboured in vain. A person who has travelled, with an observing mind, over every part of a country, has acquired thereby, in all ordinary cases, experience to guide others. The fruit of such toil will only be despised by those who are ignorant of its real value. The Holy Spirit has manifestly, in different degrees, and in varied gifts, helped the servants of God, so that we have in their compositions a vast accumulation of valuable knowledge.

Then again, if reading the sacred volume be important, we must of necessity admit the usefulness of a variety of other studies. The Bible itself could not have been presented to any nation now existing, in its vernacular language, without the aid of considerable human learning. The Bible is, in its first parts, the most ancient of all books; it was delivered in languages that are now dead, in a foreign land, and abounding with allusions to ancient manners and customs. Though the knowledge of these things may be of little comparative importance to a poor man only anxious to know its saving truths for his own eternal welfare, it is of great moment to those who have to preach, and explain, and defend the sacred contents of this blessed volume. Hence it becomes important to acquaint ourselves with the Hebrew and Greek languages, the early versions of the scriptures, the manners and *antiquities of the Jews*, and other things *of a like kind, in order that we may know what is the*

full import and meaning of the original record of the divine will.

The Bible also contains predictions relating to all nations that have had any connexion with the Church of God, and ultimately affecting mankind at large. We shall lose one of the most striking and satisfactory evidences for the authority and truth of the Bible, as the word of God, if we disregard the history of nations, which is in fact the developement of the prophecies of that book.

The volume of nature, is as much of divine workmanship as that of grace, and displays the same divine wisdom, power, and love. But an extensive knowledge of what God has created for His glory and for our instruction, can in general only be attained by human writings. Bishop Reynolds remarks, ‘All secular learning is the knowledge of God’s works: philosophical and mathematical learning, the knowledge of his works of creation: historical and political learning, the knowledge of his works of providence: moral, and œconomical, and civil learning, the knowledge of those remainders of his image and law which are left in the minds of men for their direction and conviction: grammatical, rhetorical, and logical learning, the knowledge of the use of that reason which God gives us for imparting our minds and evidencing our conceptions unto one another. So then all true learning being a knowledge of the works of God, must needs be honourable and excellent.’¹

The evidence of experience is decidedly in favour of learning, and facts illustrate its value. Allowing

¹ See Sermon X. Works folio. p. 884.

that talents of the highest order may be joined with depravity of the deepest dye—as is eminently the case in the chief agent of evil Satan—it must be asserted, that the highest created character is like that of the blessed angels, where piety and knowledge are combined in the greatest degree.

If we look at the history of the church, the brightest examples of ardent and useful piety have been found in men of great knowledge. The most honoured instruments in founding and carrying forward both the Jewish and Christian churches, were men eminent in learning as well as in piety. Moses, the lawgiver and leader of the Jews, was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and Paul was brought up at the feet of Gamaliel.

Much has been said of the ignorance of the first teachers of Christianity ; but those who dwell on their humble birth and situation, and their few acquirements, forget their extraordinary gifts and endowments. Bishop Horsley speaking, not of the sanctifying influence, but of the miraculous gifts of the Spirit, says, ‘ Learning is to us the best substitute for that preternatural illumination of the understanding which was the privilege of the first preachers. They were qualified without any previous study, for the office to which they were called, because they had that other source of fuller and more certain information.—The knowledge which the Holy Spirit conveyed to the understanding of these chosen instruments of God, was the very same in kind, consisting of the same particulars, which in the ordinary way is attained in a more imperfect degree by study.’

The force, therefore, of the objection, that the first Christians were illiterate, is taken away by the fact,

that they were supernaturally assisted with all the learning which was requisite for their office. Ecclesiastius justly observes to the Waldenses, 'we are not to tempt God as if He were to be expected to instruct us as He did the apostles, miraculously without study on our part.' Indeed we cannot have the local information which they had without much learning. Besides, while the great Apostle of the Gentiles was not destitute, as we have seen, of human learning naturally acquired; he both made use of that learning in defence of the gospel, and disputed with the learned Athenians on their own principles.

It is a very erroneous idea, that knowledge is prejudicial to faith. Religion is not the privilege of the ignorant. In fact, the worst enemies of Christianity have endeavoured to keep Christians in ignorance. We see this both in Paganism and Popery. The ages of ignorance were the ages when Popery was dominant: and in the time of Paganism, the emperor Julian, one of the most artful and bitter opponents which the Christian religion perhaps ever had, well aware of the powerful use which Christians had made of learning, refused permission to them to study the classics.¹

¹ 'With a view to keep the church in ignorance of the arts of reasoning and philosophy, he forbade Christian schoolmasters to teach Gentile learning, lest being furnished, says he, with our armour, they make war upon us with our own weapons. Our learning is unnecessary to Christians who are trained up to an illiterate rusticity, so that to believe is sufficient for them, and by this prohibition I only restore possessions to their proper owners.'

Mr. Milner adds, in a note—'In the same strain,' he says, 'if they (the Christian professors) think these authors give a false account of the most honourable things, let them betake themselves to the churches of the Galileans, and expound Matthew and Luke. Yet those of the (Christian) youth who please to go (to the Pagan schools) are not excluded.' So prudently did he provide for

The most useful labourers in the church of Christ have been men of learning. Not to mention many of the Fathers, how much do we owe to the learning of Luther, Melancthon, Calvin, Ridley, Cranmer, Jewell, Usher, Hall, Leighton, and multitudes of others.

The revival of literature, and the reformation of the church, were connected events.¹ The Reformers felt strongly the importance of learning; Luther says, 'I am persuaded that true divinity could not well be supported without the knowledge of letters; of this we have sad proof, for while learning was decayed and in ruins, theology fell too, and lay most wretchedly obscured. I am sure that the revelation and manifestation of the word of God would never have been so extensive and glorious as it is, if preparatorily, like so many John the Baptists smoothing the way, the knowledge of languages and good learning had not risen up amongst us. They are most exceedingly mistaken, who imagine that the knowledge of nature and true philosophy is of no use to a divine.' He says, in the Preface to an Exposition of the 90th Psalm, There were at that time men, and more afterwards

the progress of Hellenism, and for the downfall of Christian knowledge. He charges the Christians with the inconsistency of instructing people in classical learning, at the same time, that they opposed the heathen mythology. The account of La Bleterie concerning this matter is just, and his observation deserves to be quoted. 'To explain the classic authors, to commend them as models of language, of eloquence and taste, to unveil their beauties, &c. this is not proposing them as oracles of religion and morality.' Julian is pleased to confound two things so different, and to erect, under the favour of this confusion, the peurile sophistry, which prevails through his whole edict.'—See Milner, Vol. II. p. 123.

¹ Viller's '*Essai sur l'esprit et l'influence de la Reformation de Luther*' throws much light on this topic.

would arise, who despised theological studies, and indeed *all* studies; there ought therefore to be some to proclaim the praises of God, and to disseminate the knowledge of His word.

Laymen, and all Christians, are personally concerned in this subject. Men are too apt to think that the study of religion concerns ministers and not private Christians. Divinity, however, is not like medicine, or law, or navigation, which belong only to a particular class or profession; every human being has an immortal soul, the care of which devolves mainly on himself. Every human being is dependant on God and Jesus Christ, and is infinitely concerned to know His character and will.

All Christians are called *μαθηται*, disciples, or scholars. Their very name implies that they are learners.

The extensive usefulness of such laymen as Bacon, Boyle, Hale, Pascal, Boerhaave, Haller, Johnson, Beattie, Goode, and others, was closely connected with their general and religious knowledge and learning. Laymen are free from the suspicion of professional interest, and can therefore speak on religion with some advantages which a minister does not possess. The apostle in the direction, *leave the first principles of the doctrine of Christ, and go on unto perfection*, requires Christians in general not to be content with a slight superficial knowledge; and supposes, that after a certain time all ought to be able to instruct others: *for the time ye ought to be teachers*. This direction is not immediately addressed to ministers, but to Christians in general.

It is affecting sometimes to hear laymen deliberately avow their ignorance of religion, either as what does

not concern them, or as an evidence of their superiority to vulgar prejudice. What a low, dark, and miserable mind must theirs be ! To be willingly and ostentatiously ignorant of that, which on the very face of it is the sublimest and most ennobling of all studies, relating to the great Lord of all, to both worlds and all ages ; and affecting the character, the conduct, and the present, the mental, the temporal, and the eternal happiness of the whole human race ! surely this very avowal can only be accounted for on the scriptural principle of *having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, through the ignorance that is in them.*

It is the testimony of Boyle, one well qualified to say so, ‘ For an ordinary naturalist to despise those that study the mysteries of religion, as much inferior to physical truths, is no less unreasonable than it were for a watch-maker, because he understands his own trade, to despise privy counsellors, who are acquainted with the secrets of monarchs and mysteries of state ; or than it were for a ship carpenter, because he understands more of the fabric of the vessel, to despise the admiral that is acquainted with the secret designs of the prince, and employed about his most important affairs.’¹

In what respect is theology not adapted to the body of Christians ? It is a science concerning the noblest subjects on which the mind of man can be occupied, it improves the student in piety, consoles him in affliction, and prepares him for the everlasting enjoyment of the Divine Object of his studies.

If it be thought a great thing to keep a man from

¹ *Excellency of Theology*, p. 170.

the grave, sometimes for a few days, and still more to restore him to health, so that he may enjoy life for some years even, though with troublesome diet and remedies, theology has yet higher and better ends. It shows the way of attaining spiritual health, endless life, and perfect happiness.

Laymen will be preserved from many temptations, by adequate Christian knowledge. If you know the scriptures and the history of the church, you will not be so apt to be misled by every fresh error, nor, as St. James expresses it, to be *carried about with every wind of doctrine*.

But it is again objected, that learned men are sometimes infidels, and often merely nominal Christians; and the Apostle himself says, *not many wise men after the flesh* are called. This indeed is an important and humbling lesson to those who trust in human wisdom, which can never of itself attain divine grace, and often hinders and hurts the soul. It has pleased God to make manifest the inefficiency of human acquirements of themselves, that He might the more display the necessity and excellence of His own grace; but in every age there have been those who have been bright examples that piety and great attainments in learning are perfectly consistent. It was an old reproach against an Apostle, *much learning doth make thee mad*; Paul, though learned, was not mad.¹ Men of both learning

¹ Lord Bacon, answering the objections of *divines*, against learning, says, 'It is an assured truth, and a conclusion of experience, that a little or superficial knowledge of philosophy may incline the mind of man to atheism, but a farther proceeding therein brings the mind back again to religion; for in the entrance of philosophy, when the second causes which are next unto the senses offer themselves to the mind of man, if it dwell and stay there, it may induce some oblivion of the highest cause; but when

and piety are requisite to convict the errors of ignorant pious men on the one hand, and to answer the errors of learned wicked men on the other. There are those who turn knowledge, and argument, and human wisdom against religion, but there are assuredly infinitely superior knowledge, superior argument, and superior wisdom, *on the side of religion*, and this has been and will be manifested to the unspeakable advantage of truth. Religion receives its due homage when the highest intellect and deepest learning, when Bacon and Newton yield subjection to it.

If there are learned men to oppose the gospel, there ought to be still more learned men to meet such opponents, and to show that the very depths of learning contain nothing but invincible arguments for the truth of the gospel, and all its great and cheering doctrines.¹ And after all, though learning has been

a man passes on farther, and sees the dependence of causes, and the works of Providence; then, according to the allegory of the poets, he will easily believe that the highest link of nature's chain must be tied to the foot of Jupiter's chair. To conclude, therefore, let no man, on a weak conceit of sobriety, or an ill-applied moderation, think or maintain that a man can search too far, or be too well studied in the book of God's word, or in the book of God's works; divinity or philosophy; but rather let men endeavour an endless progress or proficiency in both; only let men beware that they apply both to charity and not to swelling; to use and not to ostentation; and again, that they do not unwisely mingle or confound these learnings together.'

¹ It is not learning, but want of learning which leads to error in religion. It was the want of learning which occasioned the abuses of religion in the middle ages; it was the learning of our early reformers by which those abuses were corrected; let no one therefore apprehend that theological learning will now undo what it did at the reformation. It is in fact the only method of ensuring to us the advantage of the reformation, by guarding against enthusiasm on the one hand, and infidelity on the other.—Bishop Marsh's Lectures.—P. 12, 15, 16.

possessed by the wicked, the learning of ungodly men has not been the cause of their wickedness, but merely the occasion of manifesting it. Nay their learning has been of use to others. The Scribes among the Jews preserved the Scriptures, and the learning of worldly men, whether physicians, lawyers, and historians, or even divines, has yet often been beneficial to their country, and made subservient to religion. God thus continues to spoil the Egyptians, and make their jewels and their treasures presents and gifts to His church.

If pious persons are prejudiced against learning, from seeing the way in which learned men have perverted the gospel, they should also consider that want of literature is no security for a pure gospel. Men of boldness, talent, and fluency, who may be very illiterate, will press forward, pretend to extraordinary light, and draw multitudes after them, when it is nothing more than *speaking great swelling words of vanity*, and thus *allure through the lusts of the flesh those that for a while were escaped from them who live in error*. 2 Pet. ii. 18.

Duly to comprehend Christianity, will call for the highest and most cultivated powers of the human mind; and, in this view, vast is the importance of education, and habits of study and reflection, to a right reception of religious truth. ‘Consider,’ says Mr. Foster, ‘what a fatal inaptitude for receiving the truths of religion is created by the neglect of training minds to the exercise of their faculties, and the acquirement of elementary information.’ After then showing what are the sublime, and holy, and spiritual doctrines of Christianity, he states the difficulty of *beings who never learned to think at all, who have*

hardly, ever once in their whole lives made a real effort to direct and concentrate the actions of their faculties on any thing abstracted from the objects palpable to the senses, learning religion.

If you say that there are many different opinions among the learned, it is true ; but there is among all real Christians an ample temple of divine truth, which is open and common to all ; and the very differences should only lead you to a more close adherence to the divine record yourself, and a large spirit of charity to differing brethren.

If you object that there are so many mysteries (which seem rather multiplied than diminished by learned men) burdening religion,—Boyle well replies, ‘ if they must be called burdens, they are such burdens as are feathers to a hawk, which instead of hindering his flight by their weight, enable him to soar toward heaven, and take a larger prospect of things than if he had not feathers he could possibly do.’

Surely it is one of our greatest privileges, that living so many hundred years from the mighty dead, we can by means of their writings converse with them more intimately, than if they now lived in our neighbourhood : that we have the full benefit of their best and choicest, their most mature and deliberate thoughts, in the clearest method, on the most important of all subjects ; and that all ages are thus made present to our minds, render to us instructive information, and edify and comfort us.

The advantages of books, and of a well furnished study, are thus set forth by Bishop Hall. ‘ The thoughts of our deliberations are most accurate : these we vent into our papers. What a happiness is it that without all offence of necromancy, I may here call up

any of the ancient worthies of learning, whether human or divine, and confer with them of all my doubts! that I can at pleasure summon whole synods of reverend fathers and acute doctors from all the coasts of the earth, to give their well-studied judgments in all points of question which I propose. Neither can I cast my eye casually upon any of these silent masters, but I must learn somewhat. It is a wantonness to complain of choice. No law binds us to read all: but the more we can take in and digest the better-liking must the mind needs be. Blessed be God that hath set up so many clear lamps in his church: now none but the wilfully blind can plead darkness. And blessed be the memory of these his faithful servants, that have left their blood, their spirits, their lives, in these precious papers, and have willingly wasted themselves into these during monuments to give light to others.'—Hall's Works. Vol. VI. 166.

Mr. Montgomery has some striking remarks on the advantages to be derived from the talents of others. He says—'It is the prerogative of genius to confer a measure of itself on inferior intelligences. In reading the works of Milton, Bacon, and Newton, thoughts greater than the growth of our own minds are transplanted into them, and feelings more profound, sublime, or comprehensive, are insinuated amidst our ordinary train; while in the eloquence with which they are clothed, we learn a new language worthy of the new ideas that are created in us. Of how much pure and exalted enjoyment is he ignorant, who never entertained, as angels, the bright and loftier emanations of loftier intellects than his own? By habitual communion with superior spirits, we not only are enabled to think their thoughts, speak their dialects, feel their

emotions, but our own thoughts are refined, our scanty language is enriched, our common feelings are elevated; and though we never attain their standard, yet by keeping company with them, we shall rise above our own, as trees growing in the society of a forest are said to draw each other up into shapely and stately proportion, while field and hedge-row stragglers, exposed to all weathers, never reach their full stature, luxuriance, and beauty.

Yet it is not every reader that does or can derive all these advantages from the thoughts of others: much depends on the character of the student, and of his studies; we have here however brought before us a very valuable statement of the advantages which may be derived from the superior mind and talents of others.

The circumstances of the times show the importance of study. We live in a reading age, when education is almost universal, and men think and speak on all subjects with the utmost freedom. All classes of people read much, and religious persons must not be behind them, especially in that knowledge which directly affects religion. And though the end of our studies is not to exalt ourselves above others, yet *our profiting* in our studies, as in other things, ought to *appear to all men*.

The various sentiments and doctrines which have arisen since the apostolic age, and are now abroad among men; and the history of the church, since that time, require knowledge and learning, if men would themselves discern what is truth, or be useful to those around them. A religious man, without any knowledge of history, or general information, or any comprehensive view even of the various parts of his religion, *will speak with immense disadvantage*, if

called into discussion with well-informed persons of the world, who may have a greater speculative knowledge of religion. He may thus, to his great grief, be an occasion of offence to others ; and religion, which is dearer to him than life itself, may materially suffer from that incapacity and ignorance from which diligence in study would have saved him. Dr. Buchanan, after showing that God honours human acquirements, when used in subordination to His grace, says, ‘ Let us then honour human learning. Every branch of knowledge which a good man possesses, he may apply to some good purpose. If he possessed the knowledge of an archangel, he might apply it all to the advantage of men, and the glory of God.’

If we would not be confined and cramped by the views of the place, and the age, and the circumstances in which we live, and the party with which we associate, and would rise to the ground of higher usefulness and more extended blessing, we must read works of other countries and other ages and other classes of men, and take from an elevated position an enlarged view of the minds of men, *comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

Theology is, like the heavens, full of stars which appear not to a careless spectator ; but a diligent contemplator, with suitable helps, will find new worlds of glory in every part. The ministers of Christ, especially, should be continually growing in religious acquirements, and adding to that ministerial furniture of mind which will enable them to bring out of their treasury things new and old. It will both take them out of scenes of trial and temptation in the world, and also fit them for honourable and useful services in the church.

Yet to the due exaltation of Divine grace, and the

depression of human pride, it is in conclusion strenuously maintained that God has greatly blessed and honoured men, like Bunyan, not without knowledge, but without learning; and has left learned men, and especially those whose hearts are not devoted to their Heavenly Master, barren and unfruitful.

Speaking of philosophical sciences, Augustine thus excellently distinguishes between the illiterate Christian and the speculative philosopher. ‘Unhappy is that man who knows all these things and knows not thee; but blessed is he who knows thee, though he knows not these things. But he who knows both thee and them is not happier on their account, but on account of thee alone is happy, if knowing thee he glorify thee as God, and be thankful, and be not vain in his imaginations. For as he is in a better situation, who possesses a tree, and is thankful to thee for the use of it, though he knows neither its height, nor breadth, than he who measures it, and counts all its branches, and neither possesses it, nor knows nor has learned his Creator, so the believer, whose property all the riches of the world are, and who having nothing, yet possesseth all things, by cleaving to thee whom all things serve, is indisputably better than the most knowing natural philosopher upon earth, who lives in the neglect of thee.’¹

¹ See Augustine's Confessions.

CHAPTER II.

THE INFLUENCE OF PRACTICAL HOLINESS ON THEOLOGICAL STUDIES.

HOLY tempers, and a holy conduct are essential to our attaining the wise and great end, the happy experience, and the true enjoyment of divine knowledge. No natural talents, nor any acquired learning can supply the place of Christian graces, or be a substitute for them. As the first sin was preferring knowledge to obedience, and the effect was a darkened understanding and a sinful and miserable life, so it is now. Sin produces ignorance as well as misery. The consideration of this subject is seasonable and important, as many have asserted, that man is not accountable for his belief ; but the Bible shows us that the origin of infidelity is the wickedness of the heart, (John iii. 18, 19.) Our moral character has an immense influence on our opinions.

A humble Christian, who desires to please God above all things, and who seeks, by a diligent and devout study of His word to know His will, in order that he may do that will, has in these holy dispositions the very elements of the highest wisdom and usefulness ; and, as these dispositions are maintained and increased, he will find them continually to assist and correct his views, and make all his acquirements really valuable, profitable, and sanctifying. However a man may have attained a clear systematic divinity ; yet, if he be seriously defective in Christian graces, he will, in proportion to the extent of that defect, not know divine

truth in its use and enjoyments ; and his knowledge will be imperfect. In some cases he will turn aside to vain speculations which have a shew of wisdom, and, as he thinks, promote his own importance or even usefulness ; but the result will be unprofitable to himself and others : and in other cases, like Solomon of old, and Lord Bacon in later times, he will be very wise for others, and yet very foolish for himself.

There is, indeed, an extended connexion in all parts of the divine system, and especially in each branch of Divine truth. It resembles a rich and magnificent chain of gold, in which not only each separate link is exquisitely finished and wrought, but is united to similar links, and thus is made subservient to farther ends, as were the chains of gold on the neck of Aaron, supporting on his breast that breast-plate, in which were the Urim and Thummim, the lights and perfections of the church.

There is also a beautiful re-action arising from our own conduct. One thing affects another, and the impression made returns again, so that there is a reciprocal and endless progression of good or evil, according to the conduct of the moral agent. This makes sin a tremendous evil ; this makes holiness infinitely desirable ; for the influence of either will never be exhausted, but will affect immortal beings through eternal ages. Nor is there any remedy for the evil of sin, but in that great salvation, which stops the contagion, and imparts the counteracting and healthful spirit of divine grace.

This moral re-action is always at work, and in seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, we are most effectually securing every other good. *As Solomon, by seeking wisdom rather than riches,*

gained both; so by that which is *the beginning of wisdom, even, by humility and the fear of the Lord, are riches, and honour, and life.*

It is a remarkable part of the Divine wisdom, that revealed truth is not given to us in an accurately arranged system, or in an orderly and minute statement of its different ramifications in one lengthened discussion, but in history, and in promises, and precepts given as occasions arose from time to time; the aim of all which is to promote practical holiness, in attaining which we fail not to obtain saving truth, and without which we cannot know God; for *without holiness no man shall see the Lord.* God is to be known by the life and experience of the Christian, rather than by bare study. *O taste and see how good the Lord is!*

ALL SIN HAS A BLINDING INFLUENCE UPON THE HUMAN MIND. When men's deeds are evil, it causes them to love darkness rather than light. It hinders the just perception of spiritual things. *None of the wicked shall understand.* The too eager pursuit of even *lawful* occupations engages and distracts the mind of the worldly man, and leaves him no time for the calm, and patient, and steady application of his mind to the discovery of divine truth. If he asks, *what is truth*, even from the first source of truth, he has no patience to wait for the answer. To such a one, invisible things appear distant and uncertain, and if of a superior nature, yet so remote as rather to be admired, than desired or pursued. The gratification of the lusts of their own hearts led the heathen to change *the truth of God into a lie.* Rom. i. 25, 26. The indulgence of unholy tempers and affections, such as pride, envy, malice, impurity, ambition, gives a real distaste to the *opposing truths of Christianity.* And when these sins

break out in the life, and *lust has conceived and brought forth sin*, then, even if truth had been previously acquired, it is held or confined and detained in *unrighteousness* (Rom. i. 18). *When they knew God and glorified him not as God, they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened, and one sin led on to another, till they sunk into the very depths of idolatry.*

Archbishop Usher says, ‘All sins are in the epistle to the Hebrews termed ignorances (Heb. ix. 7, compared with Lev. xvi. 16, 17), and sinners ignorant and erring persons (Heb. v. 2); because, however, in the general the understanding may be informed rightly, yet when particular actions come to be resolved upon, men’s perverse wills and inordinate affections cloud their minds, and lead them out of the way. That, therefore, is to be accounted sound knowledge which sinks from the brain into the heart, and from thence breaks forth into action (setting head, heart, hand, and all a-work), and so much only must thou reckon thyself to know in Christianity, as thou art able to make use of in practice.’ He quotes James ii. 18. iii. 19, and 1 John ii. 3, 4, to illustrate this.¹

Here, then, we see where the Christian will bend his main strength, he must not cultivate gifts, rather than graces; attainments in knowledge, rather than attainments in holiness; studies must not come before or displace prayer; conferences for acquiring knowledge, before conferences for acquiring spirituality of mind and Christian experience.

But let us endeavour to illustrate these general

¹ See a Sermon appended to the 4th edition of his Answer to a Jesuit, p. 27.

remarks, by a particular consideration of the influence of holiness on knowledge. These do indeed mutually influence and promote each other. *His divine power hath given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.* 2 Peter i. 3. We cannot attain to holiness without a measure of knowledge, and every step in that attainment prepares for increasing knowledge. *Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord.* We cannot limit the mode in which the Holy Spirit either commences or carries on His work within us : as He divides *to every man severally as He will* ; so He works in various ways, and in such order as pleases Him : sometimes by first convincing the intellect, sometimes by exciting the imagination, and sometimes by touching the affections ; but the result is one, to be renewed after the divine image. There is a general tendency ;—the tendency of all truth is to promote holiness—and of all error to *famish* the soul. The ways of false prophets are *lascivious* ways (2 Peter ii. 2. See margin and Griesbach). The tendency of all holiness is to enlighten the mind, and of all sin to darken and obscure the truth.

Holiness, the work of the Spirit in the heart of man, (1 Thess. ii. 13) is a term of large meaning, implying in its full import, entire purity from all sin, and entire dedication to God, and conformity to his will. In a sinful creature like man, it can only be attained by faith in Christ, and through his Spirit, and it is continued by constant exercises of the same lively faith, and communications of the same Spirit. It has various parts and degrees, and its influence on knowledge may be seen in each of these.

CONVERSION TO GOD (John iii. 3—5) is a first

step in Christian holiness. It implies a total change in the inner man ; a commencement of a new life ; and our Lord declares, that without it a man *cannot see the kingdom of God*. St. Paul also asserts, *the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him ; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned ; but he that is spiritual (αγαπῶν) discerneth all things*. Regeneration is then indispensably necessary for a full view and a true taste and relish of divine truth. As a blind man cannot discern or delight in colours, so an unregenerate is incompetent to discover and delight in the true glories of revelation. He wants that sense which would enable him rightly to discriminate truth from error, and greater truths from lesser truths. He has no spiritual taste or relish for evangelical verities. When regenerate by the Spirit, we shall spontaneously, as it were, distaste views, contrary to the mind of the Spirit—views which tend to exalt man, to degrade the Saviour, to lower the moral standard, or to make sin a slight evil ; and, though they are contrary to our fallen nature, we shall love and maintain the opposite scriptural truths. Let us then pray for the promised new heart and new spirit (Ezek. xxxvi. 26, 27). In the words of Bishop Taylor—‘ Without this new creation, this new principle of life, we may hear the word of God, but we can never understand it, we hear the sound but are never the better.’¹ Speaking afterwards of the different effects which truth produces, and asking the reason of the difference, he gives the following answer, ‘ The one understands by nature, and the other by grace ; the one by human learning,

¹ See Works, Vol. VI. p. 388—390.

the other by divine; the one reads the scriptures without, the other within; the one understands as a son of man, the other as a son of God; the one perceives by the proportion of the world, and the other by the measures of the Spirit; the one understands by reason, and the other by love; and therefore he does not only understand the sermons of the Spirit, and perceives their meaning, but he pierces deeper and knows the meaning of that meaning, that is the secret of the Spirit, that which is spiritually discerned, that which gives life to the proposition, and activity to the soul.'

COMMUNION WITH GOD is a most important means of divine knowledge. There is a higher study than that derived from acquaintance with human writings; there is a communion beyond that of communion with men; there is a daily and hourly converse with God, the Father of Lights, who is *Light* itself, and *in whom is no darkness at all*; a philosopher may be ignorant of it, but the most learned, if pious, will esteem this to be his best source of highest knowledge, and it is one which the most illiterate Christian is privileged to enjoy. This high and holy study truly enlightens, it really ennobles, it invariably blesses the soul.¹ The believer,

¹ The remarks of Thomas a Kempis are appropriate and striking, 'Let all teachers be silent, let the whole creation be dumb before thee, and do thou only speak to my soul—lest being only outwardly warned, but not inwardly quickened, I die and be found unfruitful; lest the word heard and not obeyed, known and not loved, professed and not kept, turn to my condemnation! Speak, therefore, Lord, for thy servant heareth: thou only hast the words of everlasting life! O speak to the comfort of my soul, to the renovation of my heavenly nature, and to the eternal praise and glory of thy own name!' Arrowsmith has similar ideas, saying, in addressing God, 'There are within me two great gulfs, a mind conscious of more truth, and a will capable of more good than finite beings can afford. Thou only canst fill them, who art the first truth and the chief good.'

in the lively exercise of grace, thirsts after this supremely : *Whom have I in heaven but thee, and there is none upon earth I desire beside thee. As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.* Christians in the full enjoyment of grace can say, *truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.* This high and holy fellowship raises us above the fear of man, and leads us to search out for, and be content with, and rely upon the bare word of God, and to profess that word before the world. Had not Luther been a man of much communion with God, he would never have attained his eminent religious knowledge ; or confessed it before men in that way which made him such an unequalled blessing in the Reformation.

FAITH AND LOVE are eminent parts of Christian holiness. They are, when genuine, united together. St. James considers faith without love as a nonentity—a *dead faith*—a faith that cannot be shown. Now faith is the very organ and sense by which divine truth is received, and the main grace through which it is profitable. (Heb. iv. 2.) Love, again, is that state of mind which is most eminently adapted to a profitable study : *The deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish arises hence, they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved.* Love to God and his truth, will stir up the heart and quicken the soul to a holy diligence for further discoveries of both. The same graces will enable us to persevere in maintaining the truth according to the direction, *Hold fast the form of sound words which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.* 2 Tim. i. 13. Where there is the filial confidence and love of a child, its teachableness and tractableness, its

ready reliance on its parent's word, and its affectionate heart toward that parent, then is there that state of mind which is best calculated most to advance us in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. xviii. 3, 4.) *Nathanael*, the Israelite without guile, *believed* Christ on the first declaration of the Messiah, and on his manifesting this ready faith was assured, *Thou shalt see greater things than these*: through love to Christ we obtain farther communications of divine knowledge, *he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself unto him.*

THE TEMPER AND DISPOSITIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN in general have an important influence on his acquiring right views of divine truth. This might be shown at length in contrition, repentance, hope, humility, meekness, long-suffering, and the like. But let us mark it in that which is pre-eminently a Christian grace, humility. *With the lowly is wisdom.* Prov. xi. 2. *He giveth grace unto the humble.* (James iv. 6. 1 Peter v. 5.) *Whosoever shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.* Matt. xviii. 4. *The meek will he guide in judgment.* Psalm xxv. 9. The whole system of Christianity is of a humbling character. It places man in his true nothingness before God, (Gal. vi. 3.) and pride is therefore the grand obstruction to a cordial reception of its pure and simple principles: hence have arisen those self-righteous systems which have been invented to evade the gospel. But let a man be contrite, self-abased, and poor in spirit, and the main difficulties of receiving divine truth are removed. Salvation by free grace will be his only hope; giving all glory to God, and taking all shame to himself, will be easy to him; the aid of the Holy Spirit will be his highest

consolation : every doctrine of Christianity is peculiarly adapted to the state of a humble and contrite spirit. O what a test and touchstone of character to the whole human race is the gospel of Jesus Christ ! It discriminates, and discloses, and develops every mind which it touches, and the proud in rejecting it are rejected, and the scorers in scorning it are scorned, (Prov. iii. 34.) and the meek are taught his way, and the humble in receiving it are exalted. If Moses was eminent for learning and wisdom ; he was also the meekest of men. If Paul had the deepest insight into the mysteries of the gospel, his heart also burned with the most intense love to his Saviour. A serious, teachable, submissive, diligent, pure, candid, upright, and devout spirit, is the very temper of the Christian, and in that temper is the prepared ground in which the truths of religion readily grow and bring forth fruit. (Matt. xiii. 23. Acts xvii. 11, 12.)

Another part of holiness is THE FEAR OF THE LORD : and very influential is this fear to the acquisition of knowledge : *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*, Prov. i. 7. *The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom*, Prov. xv. 33. This fear will be a guard against rashly adopting sentiments which have little or no foundation in his word, and will lead us to unfeigned submission to the plain statements of that word. It will keep us in that child-like and humble frame of mind, which is peculiarly favourable to the ready reception of truth. Infidel writers have almost invariably manifested the want of this grace. A holy reverence, and a filial fear of God, and a dread of displeasing him, will also raise the soul above the *fear of man*, so that *man's word* will no longer be our *ultimate guide*, his threatenings our great terror, or his

promises our highest hope. *The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him, and he will shew them his covenant.* And as this fear is the commencement of knowledge, so it is (in the deliberate conviction to which the wisest mind after attaining all knowledge came) our highest good. (Eccl. xii. 13.) It is also the highest and best result of all acquirements. After Job had gone through the knowledge of natural things, he comes under divine inspiration, to this conclusion, *Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding,* Job xxviii. 28.

SIMPLICITY OF PURPOSE TO DO THE WILL OF GOD is a leading characteristic of the holy man, and this is essential to the right perception of truth. The honest ground was the good ground, and the only ground which profitably received the seed of the word. Luke viii. 15. *If thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.* If our great and leading aim be wrong; if to acquire riches, honours, or pleasures of this life, be the chief objects which we have in view, it is like a disease or cataract in the eye, it darkens every part of spiritual truth. But if the heart be converted, and our supreme and leading objects be spiritual, and holy, and heavenly, we shall be prepared readily to admit those truths of which the Bible is so full respecting the vanity of earthly things; we shall acquiesce in, and receive those statements which are opposed to our worldly aggrandizement, and promote our higher and everlasting good. The *wisdom* of worldly men is in truth the greatest *folly*, and will be universally in the result acknowledged to be so, but while they hold it to be wisdom, all their judgment of things will be perverted. *When thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.* Take heed,

therefore, that the light which is in thee be not darkness. Sin, and all the lusts of the flesh, like a dense mist obscure the glory of truth. We all know how fogs and mists can veil the splendour of the sun, so that when they intervene, that glorious luminary has lost almost all its glory: the lesser light of the moon, in a clear atmosphere, has a greater brightness. Thus, when indulging in the lusts of the flesh, we are living in the low and damp ground of fogs and mists, and cannot see the light of sacred truth, however clearly and brightly it may be shining on those dwelling in the higher regions of practical holiness. But on the other hand, devotedness to God will help us clearly to discriminate between what is vain, and trifling, and worthless; and what is holy, and wise, and excellent, and we shall not spend our days and our nights on things, the knowledge of which will neither glorify God nor benefit man. *God giveth to a man that is good in his sight, wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God.* Eccl. ii. 26.

CONFESSING OUR LORD CHRIST BEFORE OUR FELLOW CREATURES is another step to divine knowledge. *Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God: and we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love.* 1 John iv. 15, 16. A faithful profession of the gospel calls for those dispositions which are so much dwelt upon in the divine record, faith, hope, love, and holy courage; and we understand them in exercising them with a clearness infinitely beyond what any speculative notion can give. The actings of this confession of Christ as it respects others often painfully call forth and disclose the enmity of the natural heart, and

thus furnish a practical commentary illustrating the scriptural description of that enmity. We get a new and lively understanding on actual experience of statements which come in every page of the Bible. We find religion to be the same from the beginning, and that we, like Moses, if we would belong to the true church, must choose *rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.* But as St. John intimates in the passage above quoted, this confession of Christ is connected with more immediate communion with God, and a more rich discovery of his love. Afflictions arising from a faithful profession are a special blessing. (Phil. 1. 29.) He walks closely with God, he knows much of God, he greatly enjoys God, who in faith, humility, and love, boldly confesses Christ before men: the very crosses, opposition, contempt, and mortifications, which he has to pass through, lead him to more intimate communion with that heavenly Parent for whose cause he suffers. How spiritual and heavenly are the letters of Bradford from prison, and of Rutherford written while confined in Aberdeen for his confession of Christ!

READY OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S PRECEPTS directly tends to lead us to embrace all the main principles of the gospel. *The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. If any man will do his will he shall know of the doctrine.* Every step in obedience more and more shows us the truth of scriptural doctrines. The standard of obedience is absolute perfection; to love God with all our heart, and to love our neighbour as ourselves; to be perfect as God is perfect. When really aiming to reach this standard, as every Christian will aim to do, he will feel that he has to maintain a constant conflict with opposing

dispositions, and that there are multiplied hindrances within his own heart; he will thus perpetually be led to see how short he comes, how evil his heart, how entire his dependence on divine grace for daily pardon and daily strength; he will see the impossibility of acceptance but in the beloved Son, and will be prepared to admit the elements, at least, of those deeper doctrines which show us the wonderful love of God in originating our individual salvation before time began, and in engaging his power to perfect it in everlasting felicity when time shall be no more. Our Lord observes, that on love to God and love to man, the two great commandments, hang all the law and the prophets. Errors in religion spring from the neglect of them; the true plan of revelation will be comprehended according as we simply and heartily and honestly aim to fulfil them.

FAMILY INSTRUCTION is a step to divine knowledge, as well as a material point in the Christian character of every head of a family. *Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do—for I know him that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord.* God gave to Abraham a peculiar insight into his purposes. Family instruction however in general is a school for the teacher as well as the taught. A faithful head of a Christian household will daily morning and evening read a portion of scripture to his family; this cannot be done without placing the scriptures in a new aspect to his mind. He will try to add practical observations to this portion, either gathered from other works, or arising from his own meditations. These practical observations, gathered for direct and particular edification, will farther tend to promote and increase the

best kind of knowledge. May the author add that it is heartily to be wished that every head of a family would try to attain the holy skill of exposition in his family. He should be a priest in his own house, and this skill is of more easy attainment, and we are persuaded of much more important benefit, than is often supposed. Christians might thus become more fitted for extensive usefulness, and those Christian labourers who have peculiar talents might more easily be called forth into that field which is white for the harvest, while the reapers are wanting to gather it in. We would caution all however against any thing tedious and wearisome. Short striking addresses to the conscience drawn from the passage, like arrows from the bow, penetrate the heart; but full, and minute, and lengthened common place explanation, wearies and disgusts, and is in ordinary circumstances quite out of place in the family. Much, very much of the true blessedness of this service will depend on the lively piety of the expounder. We are persuaded that there are few Christian masters who might not thus make family prayer such a blessing, that the strife among children and servants should not be who may be absent, but who may be present, and a necessary absence would be felt to be a loss and privation. And while there would be this effect in the family, the master would be ripening day by day unto all the full maturity and rich experience of Christian wisdom.

VISITING THE POOR is another most instructive part of Christian holiness. All who have in a right spirit been thus occupied, will have found it quite a school of divinity. The very best lessons in divine knowledge are there acquired. We see the practical working of truth on the mind; we learn what

touches the heart ; what truths respond again. The poor are more free from some of those artificial trammels which a highly cultivated and refined state of society has thrown around the upper ranks of life. They express their feelings more openly and strongly, and having often been greatly exercised, their faith and Christian experience are sometimes very great. One of the best universities, and one far too much unvisited, is the retired apartment of suffering poverty, the cottage or the garret of the afflicted ; and one of the best lectures in divinity, and most fruitful of Christian conferences, is conversation on the things of God, with those *poor of this world* whom God hath *chosen rich in faith*. Many a minister has there first learnt the lesson of saving knowledge for his own soul, and thence has carried the best lessons which he could give to his people. Christian student, then ever remember, that one leading part of *pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father, is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction*.

We would once more illustrate this subject by the Christian's GROWTH IN GRACE: *The path of the just is as the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day* : there is the light of knowledge, and the light of holiness, and both advance together in the path of the just. Our Lord told the Jews who believed on him, *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed ; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*. John viii. 31, 32. Knowledge and growth in grace are united in the direction, *grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ* ; and the connexion shows that this direction has an immediate reference to those things which are hard to be understood, and being led away with the error of the

wicked. The Apostle Paul in a similar way connects *being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.* Col. i. 10. The experienced Christian has acquired a deep insight of his natural depravity; he has seen his weakness and his tendency to fall into the worst sins when left to himself, and thence Jesus and his great salvation become increasingly understood, and increasingly precious. God reveals himself to *the pure in heart,* (Matt. v. 8.) and as the Christian advances in purity, in deadness to the world, and devotedness to God, he sees more of the divine glory in the face of Jesus Christ, and more admires that wonderful system of grace which rescues the polluted sinner from the mire of sin, and makes him the child of God, the heir of heavenly glory, and meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. In that rich cluster of evangelical graces given by the Apostle Peter we see the reciprocal influence of advanced piety and knowledge fully displayed. Knowledge is here seen surrounded with lovely graces and virtues. *Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly-kindness, and to brotherly-kindness charity. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

Let no student then think that his studying hours are lost because he is not always reading, but sometimes more actively and directly obeying; because he is not always in his library, but sometimes engaged in visiting the poor and in the direct service of God. For every thing there is a time and season; and if we

are wise to discern the seasonable duty, and steadily pursue it, and duly improve it, knowledge and holiness will be progressively advancing as in a divine school ; the lessons may vary in different parts of the day, but the general improvement of the scholar is advancing in each lesson, and by these different parts pursued together the full ripeness of the Christian character is attained.

The most edifying works in the Christian's library have not been written by those confined exclusively to their closets. The Cyprians and Augustines, the Luthers and Calvins, the Cranmers and Jewells, the Owens and Baxters, the Halls and Leightons of former days, were men so full of active duty, that one is astonished that they could ever find time for their varied writings. Had they not been so occupied in works of righteousness, they would never have given us those rich experimental and practical treatises which we have received from them.

Let us then be willing to resign our studies for our more practical duties, even when most intensely engaged in them ; even though a chain of thought may perhaps be broken which we cannot afterwards recover. The self-denying efforts will not be without an ample recompense in the very studies which we seem to be deserting.

But let us, on the other hand, be diligent to resume (when the opportunity is again returned to us) that close study which ordinarily is essentially requisite to enable us to acquire that enlarged knowledge which leads to extended usefulness. And more especially let us begin our studies with getting our hearts into a right frame, remembering our Christian principles,

and sending up our aspirations to the Father of Lights, and the Giver of all Wisdom.

There is another influence of holiness as it affects others. As Christ displayed the glory of the Father, so the glory of the Father, and of the Son is to be displayed to the world in the work of the Spirit on the hearts of Christians. Their truth, love, joy, peace, holiness, and happiness are to manifest the invisible God to man, so that he may be glorified. What a book is the Christian life! What a display of God's truth to all his fellow creatures, is the conduct of the Christian! It is the most practical book in the world; it is of all appeals to the understanding and the heart, the most eloquent, and touching, and convincing.

We cannot close this interesting subject, without adverting to that heavenly country to which the Christian is going, where both knowledge and holiness shall be perfected, and yet increasing through eternity. *O blessed region, where his servants shall serve him, and they shall see his face, and his name shall be in their foreheads; knowledge will act upon holiness, and holiness upon knowledge, in an endless advance and progression; and beholding our Saviour when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is!*

Christians, with what diligence, then, should we follow that holiness without which no man shall see the Lord!

CHAPTER III.

THE DIVINE TEACHING WHICH GOD HAS PROMISED.

THE happy influence of practical holiness on attaining religious knowledge, is in perfect harmony and consistency with the high hope which God has given us of Divine teaching. Holiness is itself one gracious and principal effect of heavenly instruction; hence David prays, *Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God: thy Spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness*, Psalm cxliii. 10. And hence St. Paul describes Christians as *taught of God to love one another*.

In Bishop Taylor's valuable sermon, preached to the University of Dublin, showing by what means scholars may become most learned and useful,¹ he observes, 'In this inquiry I must take one thing for a *præcognitum*,² that every good man is *θεοδιδάκτος*, he is taught of God; and indeed unless he teach us, we shall make but ill scholars ourselves, and worse guides to others. *Nemo potest Deum scire, nisi a Deo doceatur*; no one can know God unless he be taught of God, said Irenæus.'

We allow and press, as has been seen, the importance of human studies. In the forcible words of Melancthon, 'the scripture cannot be understood theologically unless it be first understood grammatically.' But things subordinate are not opposed to that to which they are subordinate.

¹ See his Works, vol. vi. 367.

Human sciences are to be learned from human authors, and by human instruction or research. Astronomy, navigation, geography, anatomy, and the like, except in peculiar circumstances (Exod. xxxi. 3.), are to be acquired with that general assistance and blessing of God which is common to all ; but there is a peculiarity about the study of divinity, answering to its unspeakable magnitude and importance ; we need, in addition to all human instruction, divine teaching. Divinity is taught by God himself, both as it regards its principles in his word, and their right reception in the understanding, and their full influence on the heart.¹ It is the more needful to dwell on this subject, as there is nothing that we are naturally more prone to overlook ; and yet the whole of a happy result of faithful and diligent study depends entirely on our attaining this aid, and being a partaker of this blessing. No directions can at all ultimately and savingly profit us, but as the Divine Spirit gives them life and efficacy.

The testimony of Scripture is delightfully distinct and decisive on this point. Let any candid mind consider such passages as occur so repeatedly in the 119th Psalm ; for instance, verses 12, 18, 27, 33, 66, 73, 124, 125, 135, 144 ; or Psalm xxv. 4, 5, 8, 9 ; or the promise of the Holy Spirit (Luke xi. 13.) ; or of wisdom from above (James i. 5, 17, 18.) : let him bear in mind that the petitions for divine teaching are

¹ The Author has at some length stated his views on this subject, in chap. iii. of the Scripture Help, as it regards the study of the scriptures ; and in chap. v. of the Christian Hearer, as it regards the hearing of the word. But the supreme importance of this part of divine truth justifies its distinct consideration as it regards the *study of religious Books* in general.

offered up by persons in possession of the inspired word; and the promises made to men of certain dispositions (Psalm xxv. 9.); and we see not how it is possible to avoid the conclusion that the scriptures do very decidedly and explicitly lead us to the full hope that, in addition to the inspired word, and to give us a due understanding of it, God is ready to bestow, on those that ask, divine teaching; a teaching without which we cannot truly know and receive sacred truth; but by the aid of which we shall be taught his statutes so as to become wise unto salvation.

May we ever have that humility of mind which led John the Baptist to say, *A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven*, John iii. 27. Thence come all our light and all our honour, all our usefulness and all our happiness.

This divine teaching is peculiarly promised under the gospel dispensation; *all thy children shall be taught of the Lord*, Isa. liv. 13. It is the superior excellence of the new beyond the old covenant, that God has promised that all truly interested in it, from the least to the greatest, shall have divine illumination. *They shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.* It is true that spiritual blessings come by hearing, but only as God in his sovereign love gives the increase. It is true that there are different degrees of knowledge, and that due means must be used to increase our knowledge (1 John ii. 21.); yet it is perfectly clear that Christians in general have a teaching beyond and superior to man's teaching; seeing St. John says to all, *Ye need not that any man teach you: but, as the same anointing teacheth*

you of all things, and is truth and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him, 1 John ii. 27.

Nothing can be more important than such promises. Amidst the countless variety of opinions, formed even by those who study the sacred records, amidst the multitude of religious controversies of every kind, amidst the bustle and distractions of the various occupations of life, pressing on our immediate attention for our necessary maintenance, or for our continued welfare, O how great the necessity of an infallible Teacher!

Yes; urge the Romanists: and such a teacher we present you in *our* church; a human, yet an abiding and an infallible guide. Alas! all pretences to a human guide of this character are disproved, not only as God has never promised such a teacher, but as those by whom the claim has been advanced, whether they be popes or councils, have maintained and promulgated perfectly opposite opinions.

Even teachers rendered infallible under a divine inspiration, and generally allowed to be such, could not wholly prevent different opinions respecting important truths. We see this in the Apostolic age. The apostles were living, they were the authors of the Christian books, they were divinely inspired, yet even in their day there was a *Diotrephes*, there were *evil men and seducers*, there were many *false teachers*. There was no want of light and evidence as to truth, but the want of a sanctified heart to receive it; so that even apostolic authority could not prevent heresy.

The actual state of man sufficiently accounts for this. Man is a fallen creature, with many sinful dispositions, full of pride and vanity, seeking distinction

and self-elevation. Christianity meets and opposes every sin. While men's deeds are evil, they will try in every way to change a standard which thwarts every corruption; or to make that very standard a means of earthly and individual glory. These things necessarily produce great differences, and show the need and importance of a teaching beyond man's, which shall change the inner man, renew the heart, and dispose our minds to attend to, and duly receive and comprehend, spiritual and eternal things.

The distinction of the whole human race into two classes, *the righteous and the wicked*, illustrates this subject. Dr. Buchanan, preaching at Cambridge, and speaking of the present as an æra of light, which he proves by the efforts now making to spread the gospel, says, 'It is of vast consequence to the purity and perpetuity of our church, that those students who are preparing to enter it, should have just views on this subject. There is one fact which ought frequently to be illustrated to them, as being the foundation on which they are to form a judgment on this and other parts of the divine dispensation. It is the following,

'It is an undoubted truth, constantly asserted by scripture, and demonstrated by experience, that there have ever been two descriptions of persons in the Church. They are denominated by our Saviour, *the children of light and the children of this world*; and again, *the children of the wicked and the children of the kingdom*, Matt. xiii. 38. These different terms originate entirely from our receiving that illumination which God, who cannot lie, has promised to give them that ask him. For if a man supplicate the Father of Lights for *his good and perfect gift*, with *a humble and believing spirit*, he will soon be sensible

of the effect on his own mind.—Another consequence will be this ; he will learn, for the first time, what is meant by the reproach of the world.'—Sermons, p. 57.

Here then is the true and the only infallible Teacher, the Holy Spirit, who guides unto all truth. For ever blessed be God, that he has promised such a Teacher, and given us the cheering, consoling, and delightful hope that he will instruct us.

The infinite goodness of God in vouchsafing such a teacher, will be the more clearly seen when we remember that spiritual blindness is not merely a misfortune ; it is a fault ; it is seriously criminal. It is not owing to want of ability, for the most wise of this world are often spiritually foolish. It is not owing to want of instruction, for such as Judas had the best instruction ; but it is the perverseness of the heart, rejecting the divinely revealed description of the infinitely glorious God, hating his holy character, and preferring, from the love of sin, its own carnal conceptions and principles. Spiritual blindness alleges, as an excuse for our sin, the fact, that we have no disposition to love God, when it is in truth the extreme aggravation of our sin : Not love him who is infinitely amiable and lovely, how criminal the heart which is destitute of this love ! how yet more criminal he who justifies himself in sin, from the want of such love ! Yet this is our state by nature. And towards such hostile minds, God has showed the richest mercy ; *he commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

This divine teaching is quite distinct from, and superior to, a knowledge of the doctrines and system of Christianity. Spiritual ignorance is very consistent with doctrinal knowledge. Satan has doctrinal know-

ledge, but he has no true apprehension of the divine glory, no relish for the divine beauty. He hates that which is good, because his own works are evil. We want an internal, spiritual sense, the gift of God, to discover to us the excellence of the divine nature.

Mr. Law puts this in a strong light when he remarks : ‘ The empty letter learned knowledge which the natural man can as easily have of the sacred scriptures and religious matters, as of any other books or human affairs being taken for divine knowledge, has spread such darkness and delusion all over Christendom, as may be reckoned no less than a general apostacy from the gospel state of divine illumination. The best ability of the natural man can go no farther than talk, and notions and opinions about scripture words and facts : on these he may be a great critic, an acute logician, a powerful orator, and know every thing of the scripture except the spirit and the truth.’ A man is not therefore the better able to receive and comprehend the great essential truths of Christianity in their real influence, because he is a great critic, or a great scholar. No illiterate man has farther wandered from the truth than have some great scholars. Divine illumination gives us to know truth in its holy influence, and in its real experience and enjoyment.

Witsius happily distinguishes the acquisitions of human intellect, and those arising from divine teaching : showing the infinite superiority of the latter, he says, ‘ One who is a scholar of this heavenly academy, not only knows and believes, but has a sensible perception of what is remission of sins, and the privilege of adoption, and familiar communion with God, and the *grace of the Spirit inhabiting the breast, and the love*

of God poured out in the heart, and the hidden manna, and the sweet love of Christ, and the earnest and pledge of perfect felicity.¹

We depreciate not talent, and genius, and human industry, and learning, and accurate, elaborate, and comprehensive human knowledge. These have their office, and under divine grace they are of eminent and extensive use in the fulfilment of that office; but let

¹ See Witsius de vero Theologo. 'In spirituali ac celesti Academia institutus Theologus, non modo genuinas rerum Divinarum ideas in mente sua formare discit sed et ipsis illis rebus Divinis, inestimabili sane thesauro, donatur. Non enim tanquam mera verba et nuda commenta; non velut vana somnia, vel inania phantasmata a Spiritu doctore representantur sed tanquam solidæ et permanentes, ita loqui liceat, rerum substantiæ, in animam vere eas cognoscentem, introducuntur, omnibusque affectibus, ac toto cordis nisu recipiuntur. Non novit duntaxat, non credit solum, sed et sentit quandoque cœlestis hujus academix alumnus, quid sit remissio peccatorum, et privilegium adoptionis, et familiare Dei commercium, et Spiritus pectori inhabitantis gratia, et amor Dei effusus in cor, et manna absconditum, et suavissimi Jesu oscula, arrhabo denique et pignus consummatæ felicitatis.'

The following remarks of Bishop Hall (quoted by Knox, Sect. I. of his Christian Philosophy) confirm and illustrate this statement. 'There is not so much need of learning as of grace to apprehend those things which concern our everlasting peace; neither is it our brain that must be set to work, but our hearts. However excellent the use of scholarship in all the sacred employments of divinity, yet in the main act, which imports salvation, skill must give place to affection. Happy is the soul that is possessed of Christ, how poor soever in all inferior endowments. Ye are wide, O ye great wits, while ye spend yourselves in curious questions and learned extravagancies. Ye shall find one touch of Christ more worth to your souls than all your deep and laborious disquisitions. In vain shall ye seek for this in your books if you miss it in your bosoms. If you know all things, and cannot say, *I know in whom I have believed*, you have but knowledge enough to know yourselves completely miserable. The deep mysteries of godliness, which to the great clerks of this world are as a book clasped and sealed up, lie open before him (the pious and devout man) fair and legible, and while those bookmen know whom they have heard of, he knows whom he has believed.'

them not usurp a prerogative which is not theirs, that of obtaining for, or communicating to the soul, the spiritual judgment and experience by which we discern the things of the Spirit of God. Here, *he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.* (1 Cor. ii. 15.)

It is not sufficient to object, 'the most acute reasoning has been urged in depreciation of reason; the advocate of special inspiration declaims against the presumption of human reasoning:' that may be perfectly true, and yet reason be wholly incompetent rightly to discern spiritual things. Nay, let us take care lest we object to the blessed apostle, who exercised the highest powers of reasoning in his Epistles, and yet asserts, *If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool that he may be wise.* The teaching of the Holy Spirit does not take away or weaken our reasoning powers; it rather improves them to the utmost, but it puts them in their proper place in due subordination to higher powers, *bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.* The whole question is, what do the scriptures testify?

Perhaps the grand defect of most theological writers is the not constantly adverting to the need of divine teaching, to make us wise unto salvation; and the great success of such spiritual and devotional treatises as have been a means of edifying the church through successive ages, has arisen from their clearly and distinctly bringing forward our dependance on divine grace. Such books as Augustine's Confessions, and Thomas a Kempis, are eminently useful, simply on this ground.

THE MODE OF DIVINE TEACHING calls for attention. There are particulars on this point which, like the winds of the heavens, are beyond human investigation (John iii. 8); but there are other particulars of great practical moment for our instruction and edification.

God does not now teach by super-natural means; as he taught the prophets and apostles, and enabled them to write the inspired volume. He does not ordinarily teach without human instrumentality, and, specially He teaches through His own word. The standard or criterion of this instruction, is the inspired volume. All claim to it, contrary to, or beyond the written word, and not under the sanction and regulation of that word, is a dangerous delusion. The Saviour is the great Mediator, by whom this blessing comes.

The Father, through the mediation of Christ, communicates, by the Spirit, this divine teaching to His children. The Holy Ghost is the main agent. The Divine Spirit enables us to know the things that are freely given to us of God (1 Cor. ii. 12). The Lord promises *the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things* (John xiv. 26). Of this St. John, speaking to Christians in general, says, *The anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you.* He dispels prejudices, He preserves from dangerous error, He guides unto all necessary truth, He makes our study itself devotional, humble, and practical. He removes the averseness of the affections, and He turns the will to God. He especially reveals to the inward man the grace and *glory of the Saviour. God who commanded the light*

to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. iv. 6.)

Bishop Jewell well observes, ‘As the scriptures were written by the Spirit of God, so must they be expounded by the same, for without the Spirit we have neither ears to hear, nor eyes to see. It is the Spirit that opens, and no man shuts: the same shuts, and no man opens. The same Spirit prepared and opened the silk woman’s heart, that she should give ear to and consider the things that were spoken by Paul; and in respect of the Spirit, the prophet Isaiah says, “they shall be all taught of God.”’¹

So Luther, in a letter to Spalatinus, after recommending to his notice certain parts of the writings of Jerome, Ambrose, and Augustine, exhorts him always to begin his studies with serious prayer; for, says he, ‘there is really no interpreter of the divine word but its own Author.’²

Divine teaching is marked and evidenced by three principal features—the discovery of our sinfulness, the leading us to rest in Christ as our only righteousness before God, and the victory over the temptation of our spiritual enemy. Our Lord dwells particularly on these operations of the Spirit (John xvi. 7—15).

1. **THE HOLY SPIRIT ALONE SHOWS US OUR SINFULNESS.** There is darkness spread over the human mind, it is encrusted with prejudices, it cannot discover *the sinfulness* of sin, but under divine teaching. The glory of the Divine Attributes, the reasonableness, purity, and beauty of the divine law, the obliquity

¹ See *Defence of Apology*, p. 59.

² Milner, Vol. iv. 616.

of the human heart and the human conduct are never duly seen till this divine Illuminator shine in the heart.

2. Divine teaching is farther evidenced by leading US TO REST IN CHRIST AS OUR ONLY RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE GOD. According to that promise, *He shall convince the world of righteousness, because I go to my Father.* The Jews made a ruinous mistake here (Rom. x. 1—4). The gospel is the display of the divine righteousness in our free justification by faith, in Rom. i. 17. iii. 21, 26. Now men come to Christ for this blessing, under divine drawing and instruction. *Every man that hath heard and learned of the Father cometh unto me* (John vi. 45). As by the teaching of the Spirit, we discover the glory of God in His attributes, the purity of His law, and the sinfulness of man; so it is also his gracious office to take of the things of Christ, and shew them to us, (John xvi. 14) and thus we are brought, deeply sensible of our guilt and ruin, our poverty and necessity, to the holy Saviour, gratefully and gladly to accept His free salvation. He discovers to us the suitableness, the riches, and the glories of that salvation; and hence He is called *the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him*; and our faith in Christ is ascribed to the same *mighty power that raised Christ from the dead.* Eph. i. 17—20. But without divine assistance we shall, through our corruption, reject Christ and His salvation. Matt. xiii. 11. John xii. 37, 40.

3. Another evidence of illumination from above effectually secures this doctrine from abuse—the victory OVER THE TEMPTATIONS OF OUR SPIRITUAL ENEMY. *The Holy Ghost delivers men from the power of sin and Satan.* He makes them holy. He leads them in

the paths of righteousness. A decisive evidence of divine illumination is love to the law of God, (see Psalm cxix. throughout) and obedience to the divine commands. *Hereby we know that we know him, if we keep his commands. He that saith, I know him and keepeth not his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.* All religious confidence, consistent with the habitual indulgence of unholy tempers, evil words, or a sinful life, is a mere pretence, directly opposed both to the very nature of the gospel, the whole current of scripture, and the immediate influence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit thus gives Christians an illumination far beyond mere head-knowledge; the light is more clear and vivid, the enjoyment is more experimental, the sense of personal interest is far stronger, and the influence to practical obedience is far more efficacious.

It is freely allowed, that there have been those who have greatly abused this doctrine, and made it an occasion of self-complacency, contempt of others, and reproaches against them. They could not give a more striking evidence of their own want of that, in the fancied possession of which they boast. How discriminating are St. James's words on this head; after bidding the truly wise man to *shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom*; and, after speaking of such wisdom as is *earthly, sensual, and devilish*, he thus describes that which God gives—*the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy, and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.* The author has the more insisted on this subject from its having been much disregarded. A modern writer has, in his lectures, rather depreciated than

- brought forward the assistance of the Spirit : at least, this appears to be the tendency of his comparison between the Romanist and the Enthusiast, and other observations. We plead not for any supernatural apostolic inspiration ; we plead not for any who claim infallibility, whether Papist or Protestant, but we do plead against the idea that reason and learning can of themselves guide us to the full meaning of scripture. We do plead against a mere general admission, that our endeavours are fruitless without the ordinary influence of the Holy Spirit, while the tendency of the observations is to show, that reason and learning are every thing. The teaching of the Holy Spirit is of main and vital importance,, and should therefore be prominently urged, and not casually admitted.
- The promises of this teaching belong to ALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD. (Isa. liv. 13. Acts ii. 39.) They are not confined to holy prophets and apostles ; they are not confined to the time of miracles and the first ages of the church ; they belong to all ages, and are a part of the new covenant (Jer. xxxi. 33, 34.), belonging to the church from the first outpouring on the day of Pentecost, to the final consummation of all things (John xiv. 16.) Wherever any one comes to Jesus Christ, and relies on him, and thus lays hold of the new covenant, there is this divine teaching. The most ungifted and unlearned, the most guilty and the most polluted, may apply for, and, if they ask in the name of Jesus, shall receive, this teaching, and be enlightened and instructed.
- How delightful, then, that most encouraging declaration, *If ye being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him.* (Mat.

can make out no reason why you should not go to the Saviour for this gift. All your unworthiness, your sins, your corruptions, your hard heart, your backslidings, do but show your need of this resource. Just such sinners He came to save.

Let us then cast away all pride, and renounce all self-sufficiency. Let us remember His promises. *Good and upright is the Lord, therefore will he teach sinners in the way; the meek will he guide in judgment, and the meek will he teach his way.* Let us urge the earnest prayer, *Show me thy way, O Lord; teach me thy paths, lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation;* and we shall ourselves be living witnesses of the fulfilment of His declaration to his church; *All thy children shall be taught of me.*

And if we are seeking and have received this divine gift, let us ever remember *the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.* The Holy Spirit imparts His gifts, not for self-exaltation, vain glory, or self-aggrandizement, but for the salvation of our souls, for the edification of all around us, and the general good of our fellow-creatures. Just as *God hath set the members every one of them in the body as it pleases him—that the members should have the same care one for another;* so the Holy Spirit divides His gifts to each individual believer, for the general good of the whole church.

If divine teaching is so necessary, PRAYER IS THE GREAT PREREQUISITE IN ALL OUR STUDIES. We need to have this urgently enforced, as we suffer the greatest loss in our everlasting concerns by reading without prayer. We read much, we pray little. The best proficients have been those who have prayed most. Dr. Doddridge used frequently to observe, that he

never advanced well in human learning without prayer, and that he always made the most proficiency in his studies when he prayed with the greatest frequency and fervour.' Lord Bacon's acquirements were preceded by prayer (see his prayer, chap. x.) Milton's *Paradise Lost* was not written without prayer. His thoughts on planning it were these: 'This is not to be attained but by devout prayer to the Eternal Spirit, that can enrich with all utterance and knowledge, and sends out his seraphim with the hallowed fire of his altar, to touch and purify the lips of whom he pleases. To this must be added industrious and select reading, steady observation and insight into all seemly and generous arts and affairs; till which in some measure be compassed I refuse not to sustain this expectation.' Dr. Johnson infers, 'From a promise like this, at once fervid, pious, and rational, might be expected the *Paradise Lost*.' How earnest are David's prayers for divine teaching, through the 119th Psalm. How distinctly the Apostle adds prayer to meditation, when he prays for Timothy, *Consider these things, and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.*

In fact, all our knowledge of every kind should be made the subject of prayer, both as to its attainment and its application, or we have no security that it will not be perverted rather than improved, and draw the heart from God rather than draw it near to Him; be used against Him rather than for him; and puff up with pride rather than humble us in the deeper discovery of our ignorance. But knowledge which is preceded by prayer for its acquisition and right application, will be a real blessing to ourselves and to others, will not deaden but promote spiritual affections.

PRAYER FOR DIVINE TEACHING.

FATHER of Lights, and God of all grace! Thou hast promised that Thou wilt give wisdom to them that ask Thee. Feeling my own ignorance, I now ask of Thee to impart out of the fulness of Him in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom, the gift of heavenly wisdom.

I live in a world full of error and full of sin; and to whom can I look with any certainty but unto thee, O Lord. Enlighten my understanding, purify my affections, and guard me from error. Let not the wicked delude me, and let not the mistakes even of the righteous lead me astray. I am as fallible and liable to error as others, leave me not therefore to myself, but enable me to adhere to Thy word, and give me the abundance of thy Spirit to guide me into all truth, and make me wise unto salvation, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

CHAPTER IV.

THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES IN PARTICULAR.

THE study of the scriptures is so essential a part of the work of the Christian student, that it requires distinct and primary consideration. Let us never forget in all our studies, that there is but one book of *supreme, and paramount, and incalculable value—*

THE WORD OF GOD—A book to be constantly studied by all ranks and all classes.¹ This is admitted by Protestants; but it is to be feared that the admission has hardly sufficient influence on any of our minds and practice. The best students have agreed in asserting that the Holy Scriptures claim the first attention. Melancthon, in his brief method of studying theology, recommends as the first requisite, a familiarity with the text of the Sacred Scriptures, and in order to this, that they should be read daily both morning and evening. The testimonies of men of the greatest learning in their last moments afford strong

¹ The Reformers insisted much on the general reading of the Scriptures. Harding, the antagonist of Bishop Jewell, having brought various objections against this general study as unnecessary, inconvenient, unprofitable and dangerous, and if not that, still that the translations were unsound; Jewell replies, 'These deep considerations were never devised, neither by Moses, nor by Christ, nor by the Apostles, nor by any ancient Fathers; but are brought in now at last by them that have of long time deceived the world by ignorance, and yet labour by the same to deceive it still.' Christ says, 'He that does ill, flies the trial of the light;' and Mr. Harding's own Amphilochius says, 'It is the natural provision of them that be wilfully deceived to convey out of sight all proofs and testimonies of the truth.' So the Philistines, the better to keep the Jews thrall and in subjection, utterly bereaved them of all manner of weapon and artillery, and left them naked; and no doubt bear them in hand, as Mr. Harding does now the people of God, that it was neither necessary nor convenient, nor profitable for them to have armour. Verily Chrysostom says, 'It is more necessary, more convenient, and more profitable for the lay people to read God's word, than for monks, priests, or any others.' Thus he writes, 'This it is, that, as it were with a pestilence, infects all things, that ye think that the reading of the Scriptures pertains only unto monks; whereas it is much more necessary for you than for them. It is more wickedness to think God's law is superfluous, than if ye should never read it; for these be words that no doubt came from the study of the devil.' Thus much therefore we learn here by Chrysostom, that Mr. Harding's profound considerations come from the study and closet of the devil.

evidence of the importance of paying chief attention to the word of God. Notice those of Selden and Salmasius. Of Selden, Lord Clarendon says, 'He was of so stupendous a learning, that a man would have thought he had never spent an hour but in reading and writing.' When near the end of his days, he declared to Archbishop Usher, that though he had been laborious in his literary inquiries, and possessed a number of valuable manuscripts on all ancient subjects, yet he would rest the happiness of his soul on none of them except the Holy Scriptures! Salmasius was one of the most learned men, the monarch and the tyrant of literature. At the close of his life he acknowledged that he had too much, and too earnestly engaged in literary pursuits, and greatly overlooked those objects in which true and solid happiness consists. He said, 'Oh I have lost a world of time; time, that most precious thing in the world! Had I but one year more it should be spent in studying David's Psalms, and Paul's Epistles.'

When COMMENCING the study of divine truth, amid all the jarring opinions of human authors, it is of inexpressible moment to begin with studying the pure word of God, and to go regularly through the whole of that word, before we prepossess our minds with human opinions:—while CONTINUING the study of divine truth, it is also of vast moment constantly to keep up the daily reading of considerable portions of the pure word of God, and so to keep scriptural truth, as it has been observed, continually revolving in the mind. It will be the only effective preservative against the taint and deterioration which the mind might otherwise receive from reading human authors:—and when CLOSING our studies, and approaching

the borders of another world, O how important to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, and to become more familiar with the spirit of those blessed servants of God, with whom we hope to abide through eternity.

Professor Campbell, in his Treatise on Systematic Theology, has insisted much, and in the author's opinion very forcibly, on the importance of pursuing this plan, and that previous to reading any work on the evidences, any commentaries, or any doctrinal books. He says, 'Devoutly study the scriptures themselves, if you would understand their doctrine in singleness of heart. The only assistance which I would recommend, are those in which there can be no tendency to warp your judgment. It is the serious and frequent reading of the Divine Oracles, accompanied with fervent prayer; it is the comparing of scripture with scripture; it is the diligent study of the languages in which they are written; it is the knowledge of those histories and antiquities to which they allude. These indeed will not tell you what you are to judge of every passage, and so much the better. God has given you judgment, and requires you to exercise it. *And why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right.*' He states afterwards how much may be done on this plan with the Bible in the original languages, and a concordance.

In fact, we are entirely incompetent to determine what is God's truth, till we have diligently searched his word. We may, as it has been forcibly expressed, merely 'rise to the inheritance of the false opinions of others.' The conclusion to which President Edwards came is the result of real experience—'I find it would be very much to my advantage to be thoroughly acquainted with the scriptures. When I am reading

doctrinal books; or books of controversy; I can proceed with abundantly more confidence, and can see upon what foundation I stand.'

Our time for being enriched with divine knowledge is also very limited. Suppose a man were to be introduced into the bank, and he were told, you are to be here but half an hour, there is such a place filled with gold, and such with silver, and such with copper, and you may take away from each as many bags as you please; we all know that he would go to that place where the gold was. The precious gold of truth is contained in the Holy Scriptures, and our main study should be to get, and then diffuse, as much as possible of this gold. Other books may be studied as helpful to this end, or to the right fulfilling of our respective stations: but the studies of a Christian, and especially of a Christian minister, ought to be appropriate. It is a shame to any man, but especially to him, to know little of that book which is the foundation of his religion and of the highest of human hopes and joys—to be a great classic, a first-rate philosopher, a skilful physician, an experienced chemist or geologist, and an ignorant divine, or Christian—what a just ground of reproach!¹ Even

¹ Perhaps objections may arise in the mind against the study of the Bible, that the book is so common, that it is of little importance to know it; a knowledge of it will come as a matter of course; all can read it at any time. But the commonness of a blessing is not a sign of its being of little value, else the air we breathe, the water we drink, the light we enjoy, were little blessings. Nor will a valuable knowledge of it be attained without much patient and constant study; and is there not justly attached, from its being common and universally diffused, a special opprobrium to any remarkable ignorance of it? Bishop Burnet complains of candidates for the ministry in his day. 'The easiest part of knowledge is that to which they are the greatest strangers, I mean the plainest parts of the Scriptures.'

a high degree of critical knowledge of the Scriptures is a poor, and little thing, compared with a sound judgment, a comprehensive view, and a practical understanding, and experience of the doctrines and privileges, and the duties of the word of God. It is especially the office of ministers *to be mighty in the Scriptures*; and this is the only commendation of eloquence in a Christian minister which we have in the word of God.

‘The capital error,’ says Burnet in the conclusion to the history of his own times, ‘the capital error in men’s preparing themselves for that function, is that they study books more than themselves, and that they read Divinity more in other books than in the Scriptures.’ It is one important error in our studies; but we need besides, and most of all, the teaching of the blessed Spirit to prepare us to be able ministers of the new covenant. 2 Cor. iii. 6.

It is the testimony of Erasmus, (one very competent to give such a testimony) ‘There is no man but may be a Divine, for which nothing is requisite, but to know what Jesus Christ has taught, and to practise it; and all that is necessary for learning it, is to read the Gospel. Men often repent that they have spent too much time in reading the works of men: But happy is that man who is surprised by death, while he is meditating on the Holy Scriptures. Let us, then, have a mighty ardour for this divine book. Let us honour it; let us turn it over every moment; let us die while we are reading it; let us be changed into it, seeing studies do form the manners of men.’¹

¹ See his Method of studying true Divinity.

Looking at the history of the Church, we find fluctuations in the course of divinity, and considerable variations in the publicly acknowledged standards: if we build then, on the authority of man, even as embodied in public creeds and confessions of the purest churches, we anchor our hopes on that which will not hold firm in the tempest. Let us rest on the unchanging word of God. No other faith is a divine faith.

Admitting as the author fully does, the value, in many important respects of creeds and confessions; yet, with the exception of presumption, and rash and hasty judgment, there is hardly a more dangerous snare than that of building our faith on mere human authority. If we dare not hold an opinion but as it is sustained by human names or classes of society, our faith is not divine faith, resting on God's word. Our mind should be independent of every thing except the word of God, and what that word sanctions. There is immense temptation to join particular classes of men, in order to be thus bulwarked, and defended, and supported, amid the conflict of opinions in the world, but we want that which will stand in the hour of death, when we enter alone into the eternal world, and in the day of judgment when we give account singly to our great Judge: and, if we aim at this we have what will give decision and firmness to our minds in this world. If when doubts and difficulties arise, and we are in suspense of judgment, we were to read a portion of the scriptures, it would most probably give light to the subject that could not be acquired from other sources. The danger of taking sentiments on trust, merely of human authority, has always extensively prevailed: because

Augustine, Luther, or Cranmer in older days, or Scott, or Milner in modern times, have said so, therefore Christians repose upon it. This is giving a kind of inspired authority to men. Let not our faith be in teachers, but in God's word.

Hildersham, in an address before his Exposition of John, wisely thus discriminates as to the use of human authors—'When scholars furnish themselves with store of other writers, besides the scriptures, and being little conversant in the scriptures, draw the scriptures to the authors whom they most affect, and not their authors to the scriptures; their divinity proves but humanity, and their ministry speaks to the brain, but not to the conscience of the hearer. But he that digs all the treasures of his knowledge and the ground of religion out of the scriptures and makes use of other authors, not for ostentation of himself, nor for the ground of his faith, nor for the principal ornament of his ministry, but for the better searching out of the deep wisdom of the scriptures, such an one believes what he teaches, not by a human credulity from his author, but by a divine faith from the word, and because he believes, therefore he speaks, and speaking from faith in his own heart, he speaks much more powerfully to the begetting and strengthening of faith in the hearer.'

How great then is the folly of those, who rather than take pains to study divine truth, will implicitly, and at all adventures, believe what the society of Christians, in which they have been born or educated, have truly or falsely delivered. 'They who would not believe a proposition in statics,' about a mere point without investigation; 'yet,' says Boyle, 'take up the articles

of faith concerning matters of great and everlasting consequence, on the authority of men fallible as themselves; when satisfaction may be had without them from the infallible word of God.' But we must also watch against the opposite snare of presumption and self-wisdom, and form our judgment of existing systems not hastily and rashly, not positively and harshly, as if all wisdom centred in ourselves, but modestly and patiently, kindly, slowly, and humbly, as Cranmer, Ridley, Melancthon, and even Luther did.

Nothing is infallible truth but what is revealed and declared in the divine word; and this truth is there declared generally in a more interesting, obvious, and plain way, than in any merely human productions. We do not undervalue other books. We are very far from being disposed to say of them as the barbarian Sultan Omar said of the famous Alexandrian Library—'If these writings of the Greeks agree with the Koran, they are useless, and need not be preserved; if they disagree, they are pernicious, and must be destroyed.' Other books have their use, and are valuable in their place; but let us first take the holy scriptures, to give us just views and impressions.

The importance of a supreme regard to the Bible, as it respects a right judgment in controverted points, is strongly shown by Chillingworth—'I, for my part, after a long, and, as I verily believe and hope, impartial search of the true way to eternal happiness, do profess plainly that I cannot find any rest for the sole of my foot, but on this rock only. I see plainly and with my own eyes that there are popes against popes,

councils against councils ; ¹ some fathers against others, the same fathers against themselves ; a consent of fathers of one age against the consent of fathers of another ; the church of one age against the church of another. Traditive interpretations of scripture are pretended, but there are none to be found. No tradition of scripture can derive itself from the fountain, but may be plainly proved either to have been brought in, in such an age after Christ, or that in such an age it was not. In a word, there is no sufficient certainty but of scripture only, for any considerate man to build upon.' It has been observed, long since, that the conscience can never find sure footing till it comes to the scripture. Chrysostom says, 'if any thing be spoken without scripture, the knowledge of the hearer halts.' His meaning is, that the judgment is never firm, till scripture has resolved it. St. Augustine says, 'It is of no force to tell the people, This I say, and this such an one says ; it is only

¹ The expressions of St. Gregory Nazianzen, in the fourth century, though tinged with acrimony and disappointed feeling, strongly show how councils may be abused. He says, writing to Procopius to excuse his attendance at a synod at Constantinople, 'To tell you plainly, I am determined to fly all conventions of bishops ; for I never yet saw a council that ended happily. Instead of lessening, they invariably augment the mischief. The passion for victory, and the lust of power (you will perhaps think my freedom intolerable) are not to be described in words. One present as a judge will much more readily catch the infection from others, than be able to restrain it in them. For this reason I must conclude that the only security of one's peace and virtue is retirement.' Yet if all men had acted on this principle, we should have lost the truth. Paul and Barnabas preserved the purity of the church by their firmness at the first council, (Acts xv. 2.) Paul withstood Peter in another assembly, and so maintained the simplicity of the gospel. (Gal. ii. 14.)

Thus saith the Lord that strikes the stroke and does either convince or convert the hearer's conscience . . . I would not have you follow my authority as though you should think yourself bound to believe what I say, because I say it.'¹

A similar and impressive testimony is given by our own country to the excellence of the Bible, when, on presenting it to our monarch at the coronation, the archbishop says to him, 'Our gracious king! we present unto your majesty this book—the most valuable thing that this world affordeth. Here is wisdom. This

¹ As there are those who pretend to build on antiquity, and yet endeavour to restrain the circulation of the scriptures, it may be well to add one or two more quotations from the Fathers on this point. Augustine, on the 8th Psalm, says 'God has bowed down the scriptures and suited them to the capacities of babes and sucklings.' Cyprian, in a letter to Pompey, says, 'It is easy both to displace error and discover truth, for if we advert to the head and origin of divine tradition, error will cease.' The context shows that he alludes to the holy scriptures. He then compares the failure of truth, to a copious and abundant conduit of water which had refreshed a whole country, ceasing to convey the fertilizing stream; in which case men will naturally go to the fountain head. Theodoret has recorded this noble declaration of Constantine before the Nicene Council, held in 325—'The Evangelical and Apostolical books, and also the Oracles of the ancient Prophets, plainly instruct us in the Divine mind; therefore, laying aside all hostile disagreement, let us take the explanation of questions from the sayings of the divine Spirit.' Gregory the great in one of his Letters, says, 'As the word of God contains in it mysteries capable of exercising the most penetrating wit, so does it also afford plain and manifest truths, fit for the nourishment of the simple and less knowing. On the surface there is milk for children, and within its secret recesses there is matter of admiration and wonder for the most delicate.' He says in another place, 'the scripture is incomparably beyond all other writing, in that it proclaims nothing but truths.'—Those who wish to see some testimonies of the Fathers on this subject, will find some in Usher's valuable work, 'An Answer to a Jesuit,' pp. 25—27, 4th edition. In his 'Historia Dogmatica,' published by Wharton, there is a still more extended series of quotations, from authors down to 1600.

is the royal law. These are the lively oracles of God. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this book ; that keep and do the things contained in it : for these are the words of eternal life, able to make you wise and happy in this world, nay, wise unto salvation, and so happy for evermore, through faith which is in Christ Jesus ; to whom be glory for evermore. Amen.'

All things relating to religion may be resolved into these two great questions,—Is the Bible the word of God ? What does the Bible teach ? To be able to answer the first satisfactorily is a great and important duty. The scriptures must be read, the evidences must be weighed, and light must be sought from above, that the mind may come to a clear and decided conviction. To answer the second, the scriptures also must first be diligently sought, and cavils must not be admitted ; it being proved to be the word of God, submission of mind to its ascertained truth, even where we cannot harmonize them, is as great a duty as diligent inquiry, to ascertain what these truths are. Men of an infidel spirit have scrutinized and sifted the Bible with as little reverence as if it were a mere human classic. But, while in all other books, we have to exercise our judgment as to what is right and what is wrong, and are bound to leave the wrong : there is a vast difference in the Bible. It is God's word, and we have by that book to correct every other impression.

All sentiments on religion that are not founded on the word of God and drawn from it, however they may pretend to bring us to a state of purity and holiness, are in reality vain. *The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.* 1 Cor. iii. 20. 'The word

of Christ, says Bradford, ‘and not learned men, is the lantern to lighten our steps. Learned men are to be listened unto and followed according to God’s law. Learning, if it be not according to the light of God’s word is poison, and learned men most pernicious.’

For it must not be forgotten, in estimating the importance of a supreme regard to the word of God, that the chief false and corrupt systems that have troubled the church, have arisen from neglect of this blessed book : this is evidently and eminently the case in the two grand antichristian systems of Popery and Mahomedanism. All revivals in religion have also been connected with a marked and paramount regard to the divine word.

Jewell, showing how Popery had been overthrown in the days of the Reformation, says, ‘This is the force of God’s word ; this is the power of the gospel ; these be the weapons by which was overthrown every fortification which is raised against the knowledge of God. This doctrine should be preached through the whole world in despite of them all.’¹

We shall not want motives to a constant study of the pure word of God, if we remember that it is **THE ONLY BOOK** having divine authority—being a pure fountain of truth,—having a special promise of sanctifying blessings connected with its devout perusal—and alone deciding religious controversies. It is **THE ONLY BOOK** that we are commanded of God to read—that the whole church reads and loves—that prepares us for heaven—and that will endure for ever. In all

¹ See Bishop Jewell’s *Letter to Scipio* in Paul’s *History of the Council of Trent*, p. 790.

leaves us as unimproved, after reading whole books, as we were before.'

It is true that there are many beautiful flowers and valuable productions on the very surface of the scriptures; but there are hidden mines of wealth, and we must not, by indolence and indifference, lose those spiritual riches which we might acquire by patient research.

The author having at large, in another work (the *Scripture Help*), stated his views on the importance of studying the scriptures, and on the mode of searching them, he would here forbear farther remarks on this subject, except as connected with the study of the original scriptures.

Christian Students would find many advantages in being well acquainted with the HEBREW SCRIPTURES. Bishop Horsley says, 'The knowledge of Hebrew is an essential accomplishment of a divine.' Ministers especially should not be ignorant of the original language which conveys a large part of their commission. Can any translation convey the whole spirit and strength of the author into a foreign tongue? Have not many eminently useful Christians spoken highly of the benefit of this knowledge?

Melancthon, speaking modestly of his own attainments in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, says, he prefers the little knowledge which he had attained to all the kingdoms of the world, and all their riches. He exhorts all youth diligently to pursue the study of the Hebrew. Luther, in a similar manner, earnestly presses the study of the Hebrew; and says that he would not be without his little knowledge, which he had found so useful against his enemies the Papists,

for infinite thousands of gold. Gerhard says, 'It is miserable to see with the eye of others, and especially for him who is appointed the eye of others.'¹

It was the custom in the Reformed Churches abroad to propose to the theological candidate, on his examination, to read and interpret the first chapter which presented itself, on opening the Bible, in either Testament.

Dr. Buchanan's remarks on this subject, in his sermons preached at Cambridge before the University, are worthy of deep attention. He says, 'It may be received as an axiom, that a knowledge of Hebrew learning among the great body of the clergy is the mark of a flourishing Church; that is, of a Church which is ardent in maintaining the true faith, and in expounding the pure word of God to the people.' He also observes, 'It is hardly possible to suppose that the student who has read the whole of the Old Testament in the original tongue, with the attention which such a course requires, should be a contemptible divine. For in the course of his study he will be necessarily led into various useful and important investigations of which he would otherwise never have thought. Another benefit would accrue. It will be a salutary exercise to his own heart. The assiduous study of the sacred volume for one year will, if any thing can, call his thoughts from the vain pursuits of the world, and fix them on the solemn duties of the profession on which he is about to enter. Before he has gone through the Old Testament, he will find it to be truly what the poet calls *πρηνὴ πρὸς ἄρεταν*,

¹ See Bp. Burgess's *Motives to the Study of Hebrew*.

‘ a fountain pouring forth persuasions,’ to seek heavenly knowledge and purity of life.

‘ It may be added, that to read the Old Testament in the original language is the way to understand the New. The student who has made himself acquainted with the treasures of revealed truth under the first dispensation, will not stop there, but will proceed with impatience to a still nobler theme in the inspired strains of the New Testament, which are written for the most part in the idioms of the old. And here he will have the advantage of that rich and precious mine for the theologian, the Syriac New Testament; for he who can read the Old Testament in Hebrew, will soon be able to read the New in Syriac. I call it a rich and precious mine, for Syriac is the language which our blessed Lord himself spake in the land of Judea; and it is probable that every parable and every speech in the four Gospels is recorded nearly in the very words which proceeded from his lips.’

He adds a remark on the means of reviving this study, which is too important to be omitted.

‘ The power of reviving Hebrew learning in the Church lies principally with the bishops. It is presumed that the object might be effected by the following means, by requiring that candidates for deacons’ orders should be able to construe the Hebrew Pentateuch; and that those who offer themselves for priests’ orders should be competent to read the whole of the Old Testament, *ad aperturam libri*; and by refusing ordination to candidates coming from the universities, who should continue, after due notice, for which three years would suffice, to neglect to acquire this qualification. By this simple regulation it is probable that

Hebrew literature would be restored very generally to the Church in a few years.'¹

Many of Dr. Buchanan's remarks apply also to the **GREEK SCRIPTURES**. Some of the noblest heathen writings being in the Greek language, it has never been so neglected as the Hebrew has. Owing to this incidental circumstance, rather than to the vigour of scriptural piety, many can study the most important of all books in the original tongue. It is very desirable that this knowledge should be maintained and turned to the best use by a daily study of the Greek Testament.

The Septuagint and the original writings of Josephus and Philo Judæus, will familiarize the idiom of the New Testament to the student, and to the mode of life, thought, and expression common to the Jews.

The author would only add one caution, with reference to the original scriptures, that no student should think the daily critical reading of a chapter in them will supersede the daily devout study of the translation of them in our own language. We want every day a study distinct from critical study, a prayerful, humble, self-applicatory, devotional, meditation upon the word, and our souls will assuredly suffer loss if we neglect this.

Let no man think that the diligent reading of the Holy Scriptures will leave him with slight and imperfect knowledge. Such a study embraces the chief points of all human learning and science. In thoroughly knowing the Bible, he will know the most ancient and authentic history, the most sublime strain of poetry, the most just lessons of deep wisdom to guide his life, the most curious antiquities of nations, the most perfect

¹ See Dr. Buchanan's *Sermons*, pages 24, 69, 70.

book of devotions, the only infallible theology, and a sufficient sketch of all false theology; the true origin and nature of the world in which he lives, and the only true information concerning that to which he is going; he will have laid open to him the elements of oratory, and the purest specimens of eloquence; the secret spring of all human actions, and the chief events that shall hereafter take place up to the final judgment of all things. One justly said, 'give me a candle and a Bible in a dark dungeon, and keep me there, and I will tell you all that the whole world is doing.' What an unveiling of the true character of that world in the book of Ecclesiastes! what a depth of practical and daily wisdom in Proverbs! where is there grandeur of sentiments comparable to the sentiments contained in the prophets! the whole Bible in all its parts is complete and entire; a solution of all the most important questions that the humble and upright mind of an immortal spirit need now be desirous of having answered, and a guide to the full supply of every want in God, our reconciled Father, our satisfying portion, and our final rest.

Let no man think that once or twice reading the Scriptures will exhaust its sacred treasures, or because the words may be familiar he has acquired all the meaning and knowledge which those words convey. There is always in the sacred word, when we read it in a serious and devout spirit, something new that enlightens the mind, excites holy feelings, and edifies the heart.

'Such is the depth of holy scripture,' says St. Augustine, 'that I could draw from it every day of my life fresh advantages, although I had already spent an *age in the study of it*, and that too with the greatest

and uninterrupted application ; not that the things necessary to salvation are hard to come at, but because when every individual shall have drawn his faith from thence for the religious conduct of his life, there will still remain an infinite number of things concealed under mysterious veils for those to search into who would make further advances in this science. For there is such a sublimity and dignity not only in the expression, but in the things themselves, that the most subtle and sagacious, although far advanced in life, and thirsting after the knowledge of these sacred books, finds that text verified in him, which says, when a man thinks he has finished his work, he is but then beginning. The manner in which the holy scriptures are expressed is so wonderful, that it is scarce penetrable by any man, although it be at the same time intelligible to all the world. In those things that are clear and manifest it speaks like a familiar friend, without disguise and artifice to the heart of both the learned and the ignorant ; and although some of its truths are hidden under mysterious expressions, yet it is not done in a haughty stile, so as to discourage lowly minds, and hinder their approach, as the poor are fearful of approaching the rich and the great, but on the contrary it invites all the world by its simplicity, and encourages us to gather refreshment from its manifest truths, and to exercise ourselves in the search of its hidden ones, bringing with us to both, the same fund of wisdom and understanding.'

Blessed then, for ever blessed be our God, for that inestimable gift, the word of his grace ! This word, like its divine Author, the rock of ages, remains immoveably fixed, unchangeably the same. *The worldly man thinks he can do without it, and his*

building perishes. The subtle disputant thinks that he has rubbed off its rough and unsightly parts, but his subtilty passes away, and is remembered no more. The waves of error dash against it on every side, and are all in course broken at its feet. The Bible in its majestic grandeur lifts up its towering head, only the more proved by every assault to be the word of Him that liveth and abideth for ever.

While the reading of the holy scriptures is thus earnestly pressed, let us not forget that without the enlightening beams of the blessed Spirit all will be in vain ; let us never read them without asking for divine teaching. How clearly our reformers saw this, and how careful they were to teach this, will be evident from the following prayer in Edward the VIth's Primer, with which we close the chapter.

PRAYER FOR THE TRUE UNDERSTANDING OF
GOD'S WORD.

O Lord, as thou alone art the author of the holy Scriptures, so likewise can no man, although he be never so wise, politic, and learned, understand them, except he be taught by thy holy Spirit, which alone is the schoolmaster to lead the faithful unto all truth. Vouchsafe therefore, I most humbly beseech thee, to breath into my heart thy blessed Spirit, which may renew the senses of my mind, open my judgment, reveal unto me the true understanding of thy holy mysteries, and plant in me such a certain and infallible knowledge of thy truth, that no subtle persuasion of man's wisdom may pluck me from thy truth, but that as I have learned the true understanding of thy blessed will, so I may remain in the same continually, come *life, come death*, unto the glory of thy blessed name.

CHAPTER V.

THE CHARACTER OF SCRIPTURAL DIVINITY.

WHEN we look at the different sentiments prevailing among the various bodies of Christians who all profess to derive their opinions from the word of God ; and when we notice the diversity which exists even among those who belong to the same denomination, it may seem a hopeless task to state in an unexceptionable manner the character of scriptural divinity.

Yet Christians are agreed in far more sentiments, and those the main and most important truths than at first sight might be supposed. The infidel is not so secure as he imagines in his boast on the ground of their divisions. All having any just claim to the name of Christians, however humble or deficient in talent and learning, have a fuller knowledge of the leading outlines of divine truth than Socrates or Cicero ever had, and agree in more important points than ever obtained the concurrence of men of the sublimest genius and the highest intellects in the heathen world, and probably come nearer to each other in far more points, and those too of chief moment, than they themselves are generally aware.

Differences of opinion arise, and are aggravated and multiplied, not from the indecision or indistinctness of revealed truth, but from our indistinctness of *conception*, and the corruption of our hearts. Here indeed is the chief cause of all differences of sentiments. While men love sin they will put darkness for light, and call good evil, and evil good. Different sentiments

entertained by men holding the same revelation, arise not therefore mainly from the obscurity of the scriptures, nor from the limited intellect of man, but mainly from the evil heart of unbelief. Instead of throwing a doubt on Christianity, they do but evidence how true its doctrines are. Look at the different opinions on the declarations and on the character of prophets and apostles coming with miracles and inspired authority, which were entertained by their hearers, while the inspired writers lived, and see how the love of sin alienated the mind from the reception of the truth.

May the Holy Spirit deliver our minds from the prejudices and errors which the corrupted nature of man thus engenders, and enable us to discern the leading characteristics of divine truth. Christian union is to love one another *for the truth's sake*. 2 John 1—3. 3 John 1. May we discern then those truths which, held by all real Christians, notwithstanding they are in different Christian communions, unite them together as one family in brotherly love. A clear perception of such truths would furnish a clue or guide to the student with reference to all his future studies.

The grand truth of Scripture is one from the beginning to the end. The apostle expresses it when he says—*We have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world*. Here is the substance of the Bible from the first promise of the seed of the woman bruising the head of the serpent to the last declaration in the revelation of his love and power. All the rays of divine truth proceed hence, all the lines centre here. Christ Jesus, the only begotten of the Father, coming into the world to save sinners from the power of sin and Satan, to save them fully, freely, and eternally; Christ Jesus, the only light, life,

hope, purifier, and joy of the whole earth; this is the topic, the main topic of the Bible, and the uniting point of the church below, and the church above. Christ dying for sinners, this is the one thing to be first of all known. The Bible is the *word of Christ*, *the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*. He is *the Alpha and Omega*; the grand theme of Christian ministers on earth, and the burden of the song among the blessed above. To endear the name of Christ, and to exhibit the excellence of his redeeming love, seems throughout to be the grand object of historians, prophets, and apostles, through the sacred volume. The mode of speaking on this point strongly manifests its primary importance. *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.* Acts x. 43. *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.* 1 Tim. i. 15. *The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* Luke xix. 10. *There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.* Acts iv. 12. *God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* John iii. 16. Here the leading truth, the character of scriptural divinity, salvation through faith in a Redeemer, is clear and obvious. Divine truth is therefore eminently *the truth as it is in Jesus*, (Ephes. iv. 21.) and bears an intimate and constant relation to him.

Hence we may observe, that when Christians were in the beginning admitted into the church, they had simply to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Saviour. *I believe that Jesus is the Son of God.* Acts viii. 37.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Acts xvi. 31.

This was the grand bond of union. *For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body being many are one body, so also is Christ.*

1 Cor. xii. 12. *We being many are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.* Rom. xii. 5.

The want of love to the Saviour was the point which the Apostle singled out as marking those from whom he separated. *If any man love not the Lord Jesus, let him be anathema maranatha;* (1 Cor. xvi. 22.) and genuine love to him was the distinguishing character of those for whom he specially desired the divine favour. *Grace be with all them that love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.* Ephes. vi. 24.

Happy would have been the state of the church, had only this primitive simplicity of doctrine continued to be needful. But soon false doctrine crept in, heresies spread, and it became necessary in consequence of the subtilty and artifices of those who calumniated or perverted the truth, to form creeds, confessions, and articles of faith. These have gradually enlarged, but the remedy, while it has preserved the great essentials of doctrine from age to age, has like all human remedies, failed of fully accomplishing its object, and has in some degree multiplied the divisions which it was intended to heal.¹

Creeds were at first very simple, as we see in the

¹ The Author enters not into that controversy to which 'The Confessional' of Archdeacon Blackburn gave birth. He has seen too much of the advantages of the 39 Articles, and believes them too cordially, ever to wish to see them removed or changed.

Apostle's Creed. **Bishop Davenant**, in his *Treatise of Brotherly Communion*, considers the *Apostle's Creed*, the *Lord's Prayer*, the *Ten Commandments*, and the *Two Sacraments*, a sufficient ground of union and communion among all the churches of Christ. Certainly unduly to press lesser points, and to make large requirements of faith, is the way to excite and perpetuate disunion. If we would be united, we must discern and rise to those great things in which real Christians concur. Only let us remember on the one hand, that union purchased at the expence of important truth, is too dearly bought, and on the other, expressed unanimity in lesser points is too dearly preserved, if preserved with the loss of brotherly love, with extended duplicity, and with a greatly contracted communion of the church.

Human systems are, after all, like every thing human, imperfect. Mr. Newton has justly observed—
 ‘The fault of the several systems under which, as under so many banners, the different denominations of Christians are ranged is, that there is usually something left out which ought to have been taken in, and something admitted of supposed advantage, not authorized by the scriptural standard. A Bible Christian therefore will see much to approve in a variety of forms and parties; the providence of God may lead or fix him in a more immediate connexion with some one of them, but his spirit and affection will not be confined within these narrow enclosures. He insensibly borrows and unites that which is excellent in each, perhaps without knowing how far he agrees with them, because he finds all in the written word.’¹

¹ Newton's Works. Vol. VI. 413, 414

was addressed to members of a church ordered and planted by the Apostles, how important it is to be especially careful that we fall not into an error from which an excellent external communion does not exempt us, and to which, alas ! human nature is particularly prone, and on which the divine wrath is so severely denounced.

If that be a vital, primary, and fundamental doctrine which most closely concerns our spiritual life here, and our daily walk with God, this is specially the case with the doctrine of Christ, for *no man cometh unto the Father* but by him ; it is *through him that we have access by one Spirit*.

This foundation should be laid deeply, distinctly, broadly, and prominently, as it is by the sacred writers of the New Testament. They shun not to declare constantly and plainly, the saving name of Christ. See how perspicuously the Epistles to the Romans, Galatians, and Ephesians attest that we are saved by grace through faith, and created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Every where that sacred and fragrant name diffuses its odour. Canticles i. 3. It is seen oftener in one of the apostolic pages, than in whole sermons of some who profess to be his ministers. All duties are shown to have their most powerful motive in his love, and their life only through his Spirit ; all blessings are treasured up in him ; he in short is *all and in all*. The main substance of divinity may be considered as preaching Christ.¹ In him the Father is manifested,

¹ It is allowed that we may preach Christ injudiciously and unscripturally, without reference to the whole of his salvation from pollution as well as from guilt, and forcing the application of passages to him, and some harm may be thus done. It is a remark of one of the Fathers in the 5th century,—‘If ye strive with

by him the world is reconciled to God, through him the Spirit is communicated; first, *the grace of our Lord Jesus*, then *the love of God*, and then *the fellowship of the Holy Spirit*.

But looking at actual facts, we fear that it must be said, that in the minds of a large proportion of professing Christians, this foundation is so far from being laid, that other and false foundations are substituted in its place. The subject, though delicate, is of such vital interest, that it is not right to shrink from an explicit statement of foundations, the insufficiency of which the day of final decision will make fully manifest. It is of immense moment to our everlasting welfare to detect and expose false foundations, lest men venturing to build thereon perish for ever.

Some build on **A DEAD FAITH**: a mere assent to Christian doctrines, and a bold forward profession, imagining that this is the faith commended in scripture, which ensures salvation. Men awake to their danger, feeling their ruin, and conscience convicting them of sin, and showing them that they are under the fearful penalty of the divine law, naturally look out for a remedy. It is a remedy very pleasant to the natural heart, it is an easy way to imagine that hearing, receiving, and professing a system of truths will be

violence to draw and apply those texts to Christ which apparently pertain not to him, we shall gain nothing but this, to make all the places that are spoken of him suspected; and so discredit the strength of other testimonies, which the Church usually gives for the refutation of the Jews.'—Isidorus Pelusiota quoted by Hales. Yet let this be taken in connexion with another observation, the dying remark of Elliott to a brother minister; it is worthy of constant regard: 'Brother, brother, let there be much of Christ in your ministry, if you would ever win souls. I dread a Christless Christianity.' Luther asserts that 'whatsoever is prayed, taught, or acted out of Christ, is before God idolatry and sin.'

sufficient. But against this notion runs the whole current of the scriptures. It is to do that which Ezekiel describes as building a *wall with untempered mortar*, that shall certainly fall (Ezek. xiii. 10). This is what our Lord warns against (Luke vi. 49), *He that heareth and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth, against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.* This is what St. James condemns: *O vain man, faith without works is dead*, James ii. 20. If the fruits of faith are neglected and disregarded, there is no scriptural divinity.

Others build on EXCITED FEELINGS: they make the movement and working of the feelings the grand criterion of truth. If they can weep with affectionate concern, if they have lively emotions of joy in religion, there is a foundation they imagine on which they can trust. But it may, after all, be selfish feeling and mere delusion. The stony-ground hearer thus received the word, but soon fell away. Simon Magus heard, wondered, believed, and was baptized. To make excited feelings the main thing is to depart from the true foundation.

OUR OWN OBEDIENCE is another rock of false confidence, on which millions have built to their everlasting ruin. No human works can stand the judgment of God. They may obtain praise from man, they may for the present quiet our own minds. But all this is a small matter, and indeed of no moment at all, as it regards an eternal sentence. Not man, not our conscience, but the Lord shall judge. He declares *whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.* What man then dare presume to stand on the foundation of his

own obedience, it will not sustain the building, it shakes in every part, it has already failed in the court of our own conscience, and how can it stand before God ?

RELIGIOUS ACTS are another foundation on which many teach men to rest. To offer up prayers, to come to public worship, to receive the sacrament, and to give money in charity, is with them the sum of religion, and they speak as if we were to obtain heaven by external acts of religion. We would not in the smallest degree undervalue such acts, they are plain duties, and we cannot be Christians if we voluntarily refuse to perform them ; but to trust in them is to reject God's method of salvation, and to rely on a broken reed. Our best duties, so far from meriting any thing, themselves need forgiveness. The Pharisee (Luke xviii. 11.) trusted in his prayers, and in his being free from gross sins, in his fasting, and in his giving tithes, and fell short of justification, because he rested on a false foundation.

THE MERCY OF GOD, as urged by many, is a false foundation. They will say it is true that ' I am a sinner, but all are sinners, and God is merciful, and if we hope in his mercy and do our best all will be well.' This is not the foundation laid in Zion. True, God is merciful, far beyond our largest thoughts, or else we should all have perished for ever. True, we should do our best ; but who will stand forth and say, ' I have always, in all things, done my best : ' and if we have not, what is to become of the claims of divine justice. God is holy as well as merciful ; his holiness and his justice are as much against us as his mercy is for us. What shall we say, when his justice, strict, and pure, and inexorable,

demands our condemnation. It is eternity that is before us, if we fail, we fail for ever. Let us have then a divinely revealed, a firm and not-to-be-shaken foundation.

Once more; another false foundation is that OF OUR GOODNESS CONJOINED WITH THE MERIT OF CHRIST. This is perhaps nature's most plausible device to evade the doctrine of grace. But the scriptures clearly exclude our own works from the office of justifying in part as well as in the whole. The epistles to the Romans and Galatians are particularly express on this point. St. Paul, describing the conduct of the Jews, says to the Romans (x. 3, 4.), *They, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God, for Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.* Again (chap. xi. 6.), he says, *If by grace, then it is no more of works, otherwise grace is no more grace; but if it be of works, then it is no more of grace, otherwise work is no more work.* And he explicitly tells the Galatians, who trusted in a ceremonial work rather than in Christ, *If ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. Christ is become of no effect unto you; whosoever of you are justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace.* It is therefore a dangerous and fatal mistake to imagine that Christ will make up the deficiency of our works, and that through his merit they may obtain for us everlasting life. Nor are good dispositions requisite before we may venture to trust in Christ; nor need we any good thing to deserve his attention and regard, and give us confidence enough to apply to him. He died for the ungodly, and the *most polluted* are invited to return at once to him,

who came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

None of these methods bear the character of scriptural divinity—they bring not glory to God exclusively, they shut not out boasting from man, and they furnish not the powerful motives to love God and love man, which characterize *the truth as it is in Jesus*. Let us cease from every vain hope, and attend to the divine admonition, *Thus saith the Lord, Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste*, Isa. xxviii. 16. Be not content to dig round about this foundation, to hear of Christ, to read of Christ, and to talk of Christ; but build on him, come to him in secret, and intrust your souls to him. The flood of divine wrath shall descend, and wash round the true foundation, and whatsoever is not built upon it shall be swept away. Be assured, ‘Christ crucified is the foundation of the sinner’s hope; Christ on the mediatorial throne is the Lawgiver of the Redeemed; Christ by his word and Spirit in the heart is the believer’s life; Christ in glory is the elevating object of the saints’ expectation.’

But supposing the primary truth to be really held, it is important that other truths be held scripturally. Men may build on a good foundation with materials that will not endure a trial, and though they may be saved, yet they may suffer great loss. There are many Roman Catholics who rest their hopes on Christ, and yet multiply superstitious ceremonies, justify the celibacy of the clergy, offer prayers to saints, and pray for the dead; all this is *wood, hay, and stubble*. There are many among Protestants, who rest on Christ, and yet add human conditions and doctrines, or enthu-

siasm, or vain philosophy, and carnal reasonings—all this also is but as *wood, hay, and stubble*.

The Holy Scriptures furnish the approved and only just standard by which to try all. While we abstain from judging men's motives and character, which office belongs to the infallible Judge of all the earth, (Matt. vii. 1.) we must estimate the sentiments which come before us, (1 Thess. v. 21) and are responsible for our own opinions, and whatever we communicate to others, under the most awful sanctions. The threatenings respecting additions or diminutions from the divine word may well make every minister and every religious writer tremble. (Rev. xxii. 18, 19.)

It will help us in our study of divine truth to have leading truths well established in our minds. Luther says to the students of Theology—' You who apply yourselves to sacred learning, be admonished above all things to settle in your minds what you should believe as the truths of the Christian religion, and have the articles of your faith well considered and confirmed by apposite texts of scripture ; and then when the Devil, or heretics, his instruments, would make you doubt, then oppose to them those texts, and leave them, saying, " I will not listen to your cavils and speculations ; for thus hath the Holy Spirit directed, who commands me to hearken and incline mine ear." ' The doctrine that all our righteousness must be renounced, and our confidence placed only in Christ and his righteousness, will appear new and strange, so that many will be offended at it. So also will the doctrine that Christ himself is God, and to be worshipped as such.' Luther himself, even in his advanced years, daily studied the scriptures and their *most simple* truths, and says, ' when a multiplicity

of business, or any other cause prevents my doing this, I sensibly feel the want of it. The word of God is given us thus to exercise and quicken our minds, which without such a practice contract rust, as it were, and lose their tone.'¹

What then are those leading truths which may be called *the gold, silver, and precious stones* of divine truth. They are distinctly brought before us in the Catechisms published by the Reformers, and in the Harmony of the Confessions of the Protestant Churches, and they are devotionally embodied in the Liturgy of the English Church.

They may be summed up in some leading Articles, all of which we would here view, in connexion with the work of Christ. The great truths of religion, as connected with Christ, and built on him, are as follows :—

Almighty God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, our Creator, our Governor, our Preserver, our Judge, is and can be the only portion and happiness of his creatures. To know, glorify, and enjoy him is the great end of man. As a spiritual Being of infinite wisdom, power, purity, holiness, sovereignty, and love, he is eminently displayed to man, in Jesus Christ, and there we see him, our God, our Father, our portion, and our happiness.

The Divine glory, in all the rich perfections and wonderful combinations of justice and mercy, righteousness and peace, truth and compassion, united, illustrated, and harmonized in blessing sinful man—this is exhibited, and seen by us, only in the face of Jesus Christ: in his person, his righteousness, his atonement, and his mediation.

¹ See *Scott's Continuation of Milner*, 234, 325.

The personality, Deity, and work of the Holy Spirit are also manifested and connected with the life and death, the resurrection and ascension of our Saviour.

Our Lord Christ came to establish a kingdom on earth. This kingdom is *not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost*; it is *not of this world*, but it is spiritual. John xviii. 36. It was at its beginning, but as a grain of mustard seed, but *of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end*, and as this kingdom was the hope of his Church before he came, so its full and universal establishment is the hope and constant prayer of the Church now; *Thy kingdom come.*

The holy law of God in its excellence, loveliness, extent, and obligation, as the unchangeable standard of right and wrong, and binding on every human being is established in Christ Jesus: his life fulfilled it, his preaching enforced it, his death atoned for its violations: and in his mediatorial government provision is made for our obedience.

Exhortations to forsake all sin and live to God derive their vital energy and power from gospel motives.

The sinfulness and helplessness of man, with the exceeding guilt of sin, are most of all manifested in Christ. It could not be for small sins and for a partial ruin that the Son of God came from heaven.

The immense value of the immortal soul is equally exhibited by the same stupendous fact. Would Christ have lived and died for a thing of little moment?

The entire freedom and the completeness of our salvation is all through Christ. He did not come to *bring small and imperfect blessings.*

All the means of grace, meditation, prayer, reading the scriptures, self-examination, and the sacraments are efficacious only through His presence, mediation, and blessing.

The all-important doctrine of our free justification before God rests upon his redemption and his righteousness ; and the sweet spirit of adoption is another main blessing received through faith in him. John i. 12.

His atonement opens the way for the return of the Holy Spirit, the very gift which, when ascended on high he received for our use, and which he now bestows upon us.

The sanctification of the sinner is therefore from Christ. He saves us *from* our sins ; there is fulness of grace in him, and He communicates his Spirit to make us holy.

As sin is in Christ seen to be the worst evil and the cause of all our misery, so is holiness from him seen to be our real and only happiness. The fallen creature can only be happy by restoration to the favour and to the image of the Creator. Jesus Christ effects this double restoration.¹ In Christ the precepts, ceasing to be our task, become our privilege ;

¹ The two main blessings flowing from Christ, are justification and sanctification. They can never be separated. They both come from Christ : justification by his obedience unto death, sanctification by his Spirit. Rutherford, speaking of the importance of sanctification, well remarks. 'Christ makes us most like himself in his own essential portraiture and image in sanctifying us ; justification does but make us happy, which is to be like the angels only. Neither is it such a misery to lie a condemned man and under unforgiven guiltiness, as to serve sin and work the works of the devil, and therefore I think sanctification cannot be bought, it is above price. God be thanked for ever that Christ was a *told down price for sanctification.*' See his Letters, p. 236.

the law is our charter of blessings, and the gospel the means of realizing those blessings. *I will put my law into their minds and write them in their hearts*—is a main blessing of the new covenant which Christ established.

All holy duties, such as repentance, humility, contrition, meekness, gentleness, bowels of mercies, tenderness, long-suffering, the fulfilling of our relative and social duties: all christian graces, faith, hope, love, zeal, endurance to the end, all may be learned from Christ, and attained by his Spirit. He sits as a Refiner purifying his people.

It is to Him we trace up the very origin of His Church: which was *chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy*; and he enables His people to persevere to the end.

To Him must we look for the perfection of that Church. He gives his people the victory over death—He is their Saviour in the judgment day—He sends his enemies to everlasting punishment—He admits his servants to their heavenly inheritance, and He is their joy through eternity.

So do the leading truths of Christianity rest on one foundation. The substance is, *repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ—faith, hope, and love, these three—the grace of our Lord—exceeding abundant with faith and love, which is in Christ Jesus.*

They bear throughout the character of mercy and grace to the children of God, proceeding by the appointment of the Father, from the Saviour, through the Spirit, by faith to the sinner, whose salvation is wholly of grace, from sin and unto holiness.

They bear throughout the divine displeasure against all sin, and the tremendous and never-ending ruin of the obstinate sinner: man's misery, entirely the

effect of his own deliberately-chosen sin, and that sin bringing him to death and everlasting ruin ; man's salvation entirely of free and sovereign grace in Christ Jesus, and that grace making him holy here, and happy for ever.

They tend throughout to reveal the invisible God to his creatures, seeing he thus, in his dealings with them, manifests his own nature, character, perfections, and glory. Hence the angels themselves desire to look into the things of the gospel ; and at the commencement of the dispensation developed its character, as bringing *glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good-will towards men.*

We have a human but perhaps one of the most wise and scriptural statements of these leading truths in the Articles of the Church of England. The great body of pious dissenters concur in those Articles, as far as they relate to doctrine. They are placed in admirable order, are expressed with much clearness and precision, and with remarkable wisdom and moderation, as it regards all those points on which good men have differed. Every Christian student will find in them a clear, sound, and useful summary of divine truth, worthy of deep and serious study.

Such is the Author's view (which he allows to be brief and imperfect) of the gold, silver, and precious stones of divine doctrine, to be built on the true foundation. Need he advert to the importance of this object to every Christian, and yet more to every Christian minister, as his influence has so much wider a range, that we do not build *wood, hay, and stubble* on a right foundation. Let us remember that the fire of daily trial even here, and of the last judgment hereafter, must manifest every doctrine, and if we would

not build in vain, if we would not have our toil lost, if we would obtain a full reward, let us take heed that we build what will stand the test of the trial by fire.

An accurate and just view of leading truths we should have ; but let us beware of letting any system cramp us in the free use of scriptural modes of expression ; and whether as parents, teachers, or ministers, we should in a decided manner like the Bible, our best and safest model, exhort to duty, threaten the sinner, invite the most polluted and guilty to come to Christ immediately, as they are, with all their load of sin, and give them the free promises of divine aid for their deliverance. We may be quite sure that the Bible is written on the right system, and that if our system does not admit of scriptural modes of address it is wrong.

Never think however that the belief of doctrines, whatever they may be, is the main point aimed at, and the ultimate object of the Holy Scriptures. Doctrines are revealed for the manifestation of the divine glory, and for the practical benefit of man, that the sinner may ultimately be conformed to the divine image, and made meet for heavenly enjoyment. They are worthless as to us, if so held as to be uninfluential on the heart, and not to produce charitable, meek, holy, and self-denying tempers and dispositions, from which will infallibly flow those *fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the praise and glory of God.*

It is not merely in its leading truths that we may see the character of scriptural divinity. Those truths are stated in such a peculiar manner as to call for distinct attention.

Divine truths are not stated abstractedly, as a mere theory to be established by argument, and proved by

the moral fitness of things, or by their native beauty and excellence. We have not a statement for instance to explain the difficulties of the Trinity, or a dissertation to show the nature of the doctrine. It is revealed only in its devotional and practical connexions. We have indeed in the Romans and in the Ephesians, much of a system of divine truth in regular order, yet all is stated with reference to experience and practice, rather than as a mere theory. It is in short a revelation of the divine will from the great Lord of all to his sinful creatures; an authoratative declaration, rather than an argumentative proof, or a treatise to establish a human doctrine. There is a beautiful proportion given to every truth, according to its real character and use; and we disturb the order of that proportion, when we insist too prominently or too exclusively on one favourite doctrine, to the neglect of others, and so give a partial view of the whole.

The truths of revelation in the Bible are not generally either systematically arranged, or scholastically defined. They are rather incidentally introduced, with the exception of one or two of the Epistles, according to occasion and in the way of common discourse. We hardly know where to turn for any explicit definitions of scripture doctrine in the word of God. This actual position of divine truth in scripture (promiscuously scattered throughout, and connected only by the subject matter of discourse, rather than by any artificial arrangement) is surely one of the most beautiful proofs of the wisdom of God. It is far better adapted to the bulk of mankind than any technical exactness. It better meets the prejudices of God's people, all of whom are prone to have their *favourite doctrines*, and who therefore, if they found

them systematically defined in particular parts of scripture, would probably be exclusive in their regard to those parts, and limited in their range of the whole. It suits also their establishment in the gospel. It is as it were a compounding of the whole matter of gospel truth unto the bread of life, so that the whole nourishment is communicated. The mind gradually and insensibly imbibes the whole and assimilates to its spirit.

Dr. Owen, whose attachment to system was not weak, yet observes, 'Some men find fault with the scriptures because divine truths are not thrown together in regular order, as in our catechisms. But God puts not such value on men's accurate methods as they imagine them to deserve. Nor are they so subservient to his ends in the revelation of himself as they are apt to fancy. Yet often when they think that they have brought truths into the strictest propriety of expression and order, they lose both their power and their glory. Hence is the world filled with so many lifeless, sapless, graceless, artificial declarations of divine truth, in the schoolmen and others. We may sooner squeeze water out of a pumice stone, than one drop of spiritual nourishment out of them. But how many millions of souls have received divine benefit and consolation exactly suited to their condition by those occasional occurrences of truth which they met with in the scriptures, and which they would never have obtained by those wise artificial arrangements which some men would fancy. Truths have their efficacy and power in our minds, not only from themselves, but from their place and position in the scriptures. They are placed in such respects towards us, and in such connexion one with another, as their influence upon our minds greatly depends on. Artificial methodizing of spiritual truths

may make men ready in notions, cunning and subtle in disputations : but it is the scripture itself in its own present arrangement which is able to make us wise unto salvation.'

IN THE MODE OF STATEMENT, with reference to the character of scriptural divinity, we may notice,

1. THE INCOMPARABLE SIMPLICITY OF SCRIPTURAL DIVINITY. When we read human writers we are sometimes bewildered in the multitude of words. There is a lucid perspicuity in the Bible. Here we see divine truth clearly. The light shines bright and full. *Whatever makes manifest is light*, and the holy scriptures are like a great flood of pure light, poured forth on a dark world, and the true source of its illumination and glory. You have often sublime eloquence, but all is the eloquence of simplicity, the grandeur of sentiment, and not of mere words. How wonderful is the simplicity of our Lord's character and discourses ! There are no syllogisms or corollaries drawn with subtle art to perplex and puzzle the mind, but there are throughout sublime truths adapted alike to instruct and edify, exalt and purify—calculated to improve the lowest intellect and exercise the highest.

2. ITS CONSTANT REFERENCE TO ALMIGHTY GOD AS CREATING, OVERRULING AND DIRECTING ALL THINGS TO HIS OWN GLORY. It displays man in his real character as the creature, the guilty creature ; fallen, ruined, and yet spared and invited to return ; but in every part of the Bible, as throughout the visible creation, God is seated upon his throne : *the Lord reigneth*, directing, upholding, and controlling all. There is no hesitation here, but an uncompromising authority becoming the majesty of its Author. It is *a proclamation from the court of Heaven* ; and each

one without exception, whatever his wisdom, talent, or rank, must bow down to it. Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, comes to our Lord for instruction. He pays no court to him, he tells him not what will please him; yet he gives him the most important truth. Nicodemus is stumbled, our Lord does not abate and modify his statement; he is the supreme King, let all his creatures, as they ought, yield unreserved submission to him.

3. ITS INVARIABLE HOLINESS. The Bible is the most holy book in the world. However particular passages may have been perverted, nothing can be farther from Antinomianism as a whole. It condemns sin in every part, and most of all in the mode of our deliverance from sin. After the richest displays of sovereign grace, it goes immediately to the good works, and the holy life, which are the fruit of that grace. Nothing has any pretence to the claims of scriptural divinity, which consists with the allowed indulgence of one evil thought. How vivid the blaze of its threatenings against all iniquity! How awful their execution in the person of the Surety, the Son of God himself! How alarming the state of those going on in sin under the Christian dispensation! *He that despised Moses' law perished without remedy; of how much sorer punishment shall they be thought worthy!*

4. ITS INEXPRESSIBLE TENDERNESS AND AFFECTION. No book is so full of tender feelings, of pathetic addresses, of heart-touching statements, as the Bible. It is not mere abstract truth, even in its most terse sentences; and its history is full of exquisitely affecting incidents. See Joseph's history, read Jeremiah, witness our Lord weeping over Jerusalem,

notice the account of the Prodigal Son ; mark Paul's character ; observe him at Miletus ; hear him addressing the Corinthians. Through the Bible what tender expostulations, what affectionate entreaties, what earnest invitations ! Scriptural divinity is truth, stated so as to win the heart by love. There is no self-exaltation and vain display of learning in the teacher. No harsh requirements ; no crabbed and bitter opposition. The very air of Bible truth is LOVE.

How charming is divine Philosophy,
Not harsh—and crabbed—
But musical—as is Apollo's lute—
And a perpetual feast.——MILTON.

5. THE SPIRIT OF DEVOTION BREATHES IN ALL THE SCRIPTURES. God walking with man, and man walking with God, is the high privilege to which it tends throughout. It begins with this holy communion in Paradise, it exemplifies it in the character of God's servants in every part, it shows the full restoration of perfect and heavenly communion in eternity. You see the most lively exhibition of the very interior of this communion in the Psalms. You have it manifested in the midst of active life. You behold it all realized in one glorious character, Jesus Christ. Fine bursts of prayer are continually breaking forth from the Apostles in their letters to the churches ; and you have the enraptured praises of the heavenly host in Revelation. No divinity is scriptural, that is not devotional.

6. THE PECULIAR DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE ARE MADE THE SPRING OF PRACTICAL OBEDIENCE. You have in the first part of several Epistles, the doctrines ; and in the last part the duties to be drawn from, and

to follow such doctrines. When a precept is given, you will very generally find it connected with some one or other of the peculiar principles of the scriptures. Thus the introduction to the decalogue is, *I am the Lord thy God, who brought &c.* The principles are evangelical and spiritual. You may observe in every part of the Bible the utmost freedom in insisting on duties, without any fear of thereby weakening doctrines which might have the appearance of an opposing view. Men are in all cases called, if they would not perish, to give up their sins and turn to God; and yet the worst sinners are offered a free pardon. Our plan is not scriptural unless we can readily act thus.

Yet TRUTH IS STATED IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS. There is an advantage in this, as it is adapted thus to the various characters of men. God gives to each of his servants their proper gift. There are varied gifts in the sacred writers; the meek Moses, the devotional David, the eloquent Isaiah, the plaintive tender Jeremiah, the fervent Paul, the practical James, and the seraphic John, vary much in the character of their writings; but they deliver the same truths, and the common features of Christianity are still preserved by each. There may be very different gifts, and yet all be scripturally used. There may be much diversity of statement without any departure from the analogy of faith.

And thus it is in human writers in our day. There is the practical holiness of Walker of Truro, and the evangelical glow of Hervey; yet both according to the same analogy of faith. There is the doctrinal clearness of Perkins, and the devotion of Thomas à Kempis; and yet both built on one foundation.

It is not therefore, the mode of expression arising

from the natural character of the writer, but the mode of its statement in connexion with Christ Jesus, and harmonizing with the general features of the gospel, which constitutes the character of scriptural divinity.

We conclude with a practical remark: **HOW MUCH SHOULD WE STUDY THE SCRIPTURES** that our mind may be imbued with the train of thought, and the very spirit of the sacred writers. Erroneous and unscriptural views arise from leaning to our own understanding and the love of sin. Let us then read the Bible more with earnest petitions for the aid of that Holy Spirit, under whose inspiration this holy book was first written, so shall we leave beneath us the littleness of human systems, and ascend to the majesty, and see the glory, and taste the sweetness, of the Divine Word.

CHAPTER VI.

ON THE STUDY OF PRACTICAL WORKS.

THE influence of practical holiness on the acquisition of religious knowledge, has already been pointed out in the second chapter of this work, and all that was there said will tend to show the importance of studying those works, the direct aim of which is to promote personal religion. The knowledge which is directly and immediately connected with our duty and our salvation, is the first thing which, as Christian students, we have to learn.

The scriptures in this, as well as in every other respect, justly claim precedence, as the best book of devotions, and the most practical work that can be read. Next to the scriptures, the most heart-moving, and spiritual, and evangelical treatises that we can procure, treatises which many of the older writers furnish on such practical topics as conversion, prayer, temptation, death, the Saint's Rest, the Saviour, the Christian armour, contemplations on the scriptures, &c. &c. should be daily read.

To furnish his mind with knowledge is but one part of the work of the Christian student. If this be all his aim, it may qualify him to shine among men, and to dispute, and, with some advantages, contend with those around him; but its result will only be to inflate him with pride, and disqualify him for the indispensable exercise of humility and love.

To affect the heart aright, is the more important part of study, and for this end, after prayer for the Holy Spirit and study of the Divine records, such books as we have mentioned must be read, and read in the spirit of seriousness, self-examination, and prayer, that thus we may be brought nearer to God.

It is the fault of many systems of divinity, and many plans of study, that they leave out this more important part. Whether it be from overvaluing knowledge, or thinking this less needful for immediate use, it is however, evident that students have not frequently had pressed on their attention, the great importance of studying practical and devotional works. The pious Ludolf has observed that 'the learned generally read authors, more out of a vain itch to fill their heads with knowledge and a party scheme, than with intent

to improve their hearts in love, wisdom, humility, and meekness.¹

Such studies are in truth eminently needful for our real happiness and daily usefulness. If the heart be raised to communion with God, there is the best preparation for a spiritual discernment of the nature and value of the various sentiments, which in the course of other studies are brought before the mind.

Those books are mainly useful, those studies of prime importance, which directly tend to regulate the heart, to raise the flame of inward devotion, which make us more spiritually-minded, more holy, and more heavenly. This course of study is most calculated to discover to us that interior truth of God's word which is often least of all revealed to those who are learned in critical disputation, and wholly engaged in verbal niceties. Indeed all the accomplishments of human learning may leave a man utterly devoid of spiritual knowledge, and under the full power of a corrupt heart.

We are ready to think that time is lost in practical studies. By no means. It is not a loss, but a gain of time to read pious and devout works. Very often we shall find even the very doctrines of the gospel more usefully, more wisely, and more soberly stated, than in direct controversial treatises on the subject, and they help us to acquire that state of mind which is essential to the right reception of truth.

It was a remark made to the Author by a pious friend, the Rev. Legh Richmond, now gone to his reward, when I told him of this work—'Let me beg

¹ See *Ludolf's Remains*, p. 69.

you to press devotion of heart—devotional works; most students are dry and intellectual, and lose the best fruits of their studies.’

This study should therefore be intermingled with all our other studies, and our leisure time on the Sabbath should be especially consecrated to it. It is a great temptation to diligent students to appropriate part of the Sabbath to those studies in which they are specially engaged during the week. Such a temptation should be strenuously resisted, and the retired hours of the Sabbath be given to devotional works. So shall we find a blessing on all our other studies. Our Saviour has declared that *if any man will do his will he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God*, it will help us to do his will, and so rightly to understand the scriptures, daily and especially on Sundays to peruse the most holy and spiritual treatises with which we can meet, such as Doddridge’s *Rise and Progress*, Beveridge’s *Private Thoughts*, Owen on *Communion with God*, Leighton’s *Peter*, Adam’s *Private Thoughts*, Kempis’s *Imitation of Christ*, Serle’s *Horæ Solitariae*, Halyburton’s *Life*, and similar works.

Baxter justly remarks in a book which cannot be wholly approved (his *Confession of Faith*), ‘Practice is the excellent help to be truly orthodox. The practical experimental preachers and people do hold fast those truths to salvation which opinionatists and mere disputers are either wholly drawn from, or hold but speculatively, and detain in unrighteousness to their own perdition.’ He adds, ‘the godly and learned do lose that truth too often in disputations which before they held in sober practice.’

All who have deeply engaged in study have felt its tendency to draw the heart from God: so to occupy

the intellect, that we forget, or think we have not time for the highest privilege of man, communion with God. What we mean is, that this, as well as any other pursuit that eagerly engages the mind, even though it be theological and scriptural in its subject, may yet lead us away from that which should be the primary object of the Christian student: 'the life of God in the soul of man.'

Mr. Law has some severe, but very important remarks on this subject in his Letters. He says, 'A scholar pitying the blindness and folly of those who live to themselves, in the cares and pleasures of this vain world, thinks himself divinely employed and to have escaped the pollutions of the world, because he is day after day, dividing, dissecting, and mending Church opinions, fixing heresies here, and schisms there, forgetting all the while, that carnal self, and natural reason have the doing of all that is done by this learned zeal, and are as busy, as in the reasoning infidel or projecting worldling.' He afterwards asserts 'Worldly lusts and interests, vanity, pride, envy, contention, bitterness, and ambition (the death of all that is good in the soul) have now, and always had, their chief nourishment, power, and support, from a sense of the merit and sufficiency of literary accomplishments. Humility, meekness, patience, faith, hope, contempt of the world, and heavenly affection (the very life of Jesus in the soul), are by few persons less earnestly desired, or more hard to be practised, than by great wits, classical critics, linguists, historians, and orators in holy orders.'

In fact, the holy life of a Christian is the brightest evidence and the fullest glory of our religion. Christianity thus embodied in the whole temper and con-

versation of a human being, is like the self-evident glory of the sun, sustained by the invisible hand of God, self-suspended in its course; its own light and warmth speak its excellence, and declare its blessedness. Mr. Law well observes, ‘A learned Christianity supported and governed by reason, dispute, and criticism, that is forced to appeal to canons and councils and ancient usages to defend itself, has lost its place, stands upon a fictitious foundation, and shows that it cannot appeal to itself, to its own works, which alone are the certain infallible proofs of a true or false Christianity.’¹

May we then study practical books, and especially such practical books as are full of Christ and his salvation. A devout Christian will cordially concur in the sentiment of Augustine: ‘I am neither pleased with those writings, nor yet with that conversation in which I find not a savour of the name of Jesus; for he is as honey to my mouth, music to my ears, and joy to my heart.’

It is the practical experience of the Christian, it is his holy and spiritual knowledge, his pure and peaceable wisdom, which gives him, when destitute of literary acquirements, such an advantage in the perception of religious truth. In this he has a vast superiority over those who may possess literature in the highest degree, but have never had the experience in their own hearts of the truths which they have acquired with the understanding only. *The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.* How beneficent is our heavenly Father in this. ‘The depths of human science and learning

¹ See Law's Letters, p. 316, 390, 396.

can be explored by few, because few have either leisure or ability for learned investigations;’ but the depths of Christian doctrine and experience are by the divine Spirit revealed to those who pray and meditate, and search the Scriptures: and experience enables them to speak with more truth and accuracy on the deceitfulness and depravity of the heart, the value of Christ, the life of the Christian, and the spiritual conflict, than any mere literature can possibly reach.

The more we enter into the spirit of practical writings, and can find joy in them, the more clear will be our evidence that our heart is right with God; and indeed in proportion as we advance in real piety shall we cordially love such reading. And while we are thus seeking not only to know but to do the will of God, we shall receive more and more of the enlightening beams of his Spirit.

CHAPTER VII.

THE STUDY OF CONTROVERSIAL WORKS.

SOME are disposed to condemn at once all controversial studies, as prejudicial and unprofitable; but it has pleased God to turn even opposition to his truth to good, and make it instrumental to the advancement of that which it was intended to overthrow.

The opposition of Job’s severe friends, and the discussions between them, furnished the church of God with that ancient book which is called by his name;

and the opposition of Judaizers in Galatia stirred up the zealous Paul to write that fervent Epistle, of which we now reap the benefit. The enmity of Pagans and Infidels have been the occasion of calling forth the most able defences of Christianity. The corruptions of Popery led to the full statement of Protestant doctrine, and the writings of the Socinians to the clearer developement of Evangelical truth.

There is a stagnant peace full of infection and death. Vehement contention for truth may be a duty, and consistent with love and the meekness of wisdom. Peaceful minds are often apt to condemn not so much those who resist the truth, as those who by testifying the truth, are the innocent occasion of controversy, and thus first disturb the general quiet. This is not however the true peace-making spirit which our Saviour blesses, but the love of carnal ease, and the very opposite to the spirit of the gospel. Erasmus would thus have lost that Reformation, which Luther under God accomplished. There is a greater blessing than present quiet, even the maintenance of important truth, and millions will through eternity thank God for the holy boldness, decision, and courage of Luther. Indeed eager disputes about important religious truths are far better and far more hopeful than that total indifference which arises from infidelity.

There may indeed be a disproportionate attention to controversy, as well as a despising of it: if it be pursued to the neglect or prejudice of devotional and practical religion, if it be pursued with the passions of the natural, and not with the graces of the spiritual man, it is disproportionately pursued. But because there is this mistake, there is a prevalent notion among those to whom we may justly give the blessed title of *peace-*

makers, that the simple statement of truth is a sufficient confutation of error. Such forget the advantage that error has against truth in its falling in with the natural principles of the heart. Exposure of error and false statement, in a controversial form, is a prominent part of the Epistles to the unsettled churches. The duty of controversy under many circumstances which might be stated is perfectly clear, *We must earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints.*

Yet while it has pleased our Heavenly Father thus to overrule some controversies for good, it is not all controversy that has done good, nor any in this fallen world that has done unmixed good. There have been controversies with comparatively little practical benefit, and with deep injury to the spirit of those engaged in them. Mr. Howe remarks—

‘It is little considered what is the true, the proper, and the right notion of the Christian church, or the churches of Christ in general. They are hospitals, or rather one great hospital, wherein there are persons of all sorts under cure. There is none that is sound, none that is not diseased, none that has not wounds and sores about him. Now how unsufferable insolence were it, that in an hospital of maimed and diseased persons, one sick or wounded man should say, such a man’s sores are so noisome to me that I am not able to endure the being neighbour to him.’—See Howe’s Works. Vol. VI. 177.

Whenever evil passions have thus been displayed, on whatever side, it tends to the detriment of truth; *the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.* Our answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in us, should be given *with meekness and*

fear ; meekness towards him who opposes, and fear towards God, lest we should dishonour his cause. It is truly affecting to look back at the whole history of the church, and see the differences and failings of good men. Paul and Barnabas, Acts xv. 39 ; Peter and Paul, Gal. ii. 11—13. in the days of the Apostles ; Fathers against Fathers in the early days of the church ; Reformers against Reformers ; Ridley and Hooper ; the martyrs in prison and the exiles abroad in Mary's reign ; in every age how Satan has sought to divide, that he might destroy the church : in every age what confirmation do we thus receive of the fallen state of man !

Painfully depressing are some controversies ; they either perplex the mind, and tend to raise doubts and unbelief ; or, if our own mind be clear and fixed, yet is it no small sorrow to see multitudes, after all that can be said, wandering in irreclaimable error ; to see some introducing ruinous errors, and bringing *on themselves swift destruction*, with that additional sad effect of which St. Peter speaks, *Many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

Many also are misled by unscriptural sentiments, of which they never perhaps hear the sound and just refutation.

A powerful treatise taking an erroneous side of a question is read, and many are disposed to concur in it, till God graciously raises up a writer on the other side, who shows them how far the first has deviated from the truth. How often have we been reminded of that important truth, *He that is first in his own cause seemeth just, but his neighbour cometh and search-*

at him. Prov. xviii. 17. And yet from all good writers we get scintillations of truth : in the Bible only it is unmixed.

The book of Job, already referred to, furnishes a true specimen of the nature of controversy among religious men. How much is right, and how much is wrong in all ! and God himself finally clears the matter, and humbles ALL, and glorifies himself.

In some cases, the subject itself is, in its various bearings, far above the human intellect. The Bible itself has informed us that the judgments of God are unsearchable, and his *ways past finding out* ; we need not therefore be surprized if there are mysteries and things beyond our utmost reach of mind.

The very obscurity and darkness of divine mysteries is not without instruction. Dr. Owen observes, ‘ what we call darkness in divine subjects is nothing else than their celestial glory and splendour striking on the weak ball of our eyes, the rays of which we are not able in this life to bear. It is owing to the nature of the doctrines themselves, and their exceeding splendour, that there are some things hard to be conceived and interpreted, and which surpass our capacity and comprehension.’ See his Works, vol. ix. 326, 327. How calculated is this to give us just views of our own darkness, ignorance, and insufficiency ! The wisest man thought himself *but a little child*, who knew *not how to go out or come in* (1 Kings iii. 7) ; and the expression of his humility was especially honoured and commended of God.

The circumstances of our situation will very much point out the line of our duty as to the study of particular controversies. If placed among, and in contact with INFIDELS and Deists, we ought to be acquainted

with the just answers to their cavils, and for this purpose must study the evidences.

But here let us bear in mind that Christianity is its own witness. Let this witness have at least the strong corroboratory testimony of pure affections and holy tempers and heavenly conduct in the life ; this testimony, though silent, speaks more irresistibly than many arguments ; let Christianity also be exhibited in that rich combination of blessings which its doctrines make known to us ; and not merely in eloquence of words, or in the chilling and didactic statement, which may display our talent, may interest the intellect, may even convince the understanding, and still leave the heart unimpressed.

One of the main pillars of evidence for the gospel is, the influence of its doctrines on the lives of its professors and advocates. The cause is much weakened when the defenders of the faith do not present to their opponents the exhibition of the power and holiness of the faith. It is not always that the dignified advocate and the humble disciple combine. Has it not sometimes occurred, that the infidel is confuted by the nominal Christian, himself without that genuine *faith which worketh by love* ?

It is most important that Christians should be intelligent on the grounds of their own faith. Some are so satisfied with the grounds and strength of their convictions, as to deem any extensive attention to the subject a misapplication of time and interest. But on a subject so extensive in itself, and so momentously connected with our present happiness and our eternal prospects, it may be questioned whether the best informed among us have not need of farther informa-

tion and consideration. At a time when new objections are continually forged, or at least old objections presented in a new and specious form, it becomes every one to remember the old reproach, *Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off*. (1 Kings xx. 11). It is probable that many who are confident in the sincerity of their assurance have never been exposed to some of those assaults of the wicked one which, by their daring impiety, have sometimes ruffled the calm even of well-established Christians. The habit of dependance upon the Spirit for the increase and preservation of our faith, must ever be combined with a diligent improvement of all means conducive to those most important ends.

The barrenness or the fruitfulness of this study depends evidently upon the readiness and simplicity of our spirit in making a practical and immediate application of the facts, whose credibility is thus established to our own case. What, for instance, is the natural result of a sincere inquiry and insight into the state of the world, brought before his view by the christian system, and the marks of guilt and fall that everywhere are visible, &c.? humiliation, anxiety of spirit, earnest desire for forgiveness and renovation of heart! &c. Treatises on evidences, if they were generally directed to practical inquiry, would be far more interesting, useful, and satisfactory.

The use also of this spirit is equally obvious in the offensive as in the defensive war with the infidel. Direct arguments against his heart and conscience, grounded of course on credible testimony, would be irresistible. *There*, and not in the intellect, is the disease. Convince him of sin, there is an end of his infidelity, *root and branch*. There is more accuracy

and depth in two verses of our Lord (John iii. 19, 20), as developing the root of the evil, than in whole volumes that have been coldly written with satisfactory speculative evidence of the truth. ¹

Again, if I be placed in immediate contact with **ROMAN CATHOLICS**, I ought to study that controversy. They have many subtle arguments to plead, such as universality, antiquity, and unity. To expose their sophistry, and satisfy inquiring minds, requires information, and calls for reading.

But let me contend in the spirit of love, sympathy, and kindness ; or I shall only provoke and harden. With regard to them, and indeed to all others, our work as Christians is calmly and charitably, meekly and in the fear of God, wisely and firmly, patiently and constantly, to bear witness to the truth. The work of conversion is the Lord's ; but he gives his grace with the testimony to the truth. Here, again, the experience of the truth and its real blessedness will give its defenders the main advantage.

Or I may be situated among **SOCINIANS**, who are actively disseminating tenets derogatory to the divine glory of the Redeemer. There is much that flatters human wisdom in their system, and there have been those who have made considerable acquirements in criticism who have held it. It is necessary to be able in such a case, to show that they do totally fail of establishing their principles, on all just interpretations of scripture, just views of the divine attributes and of the moral wants of man ; and we need not add,

¹ Fuller, in his Gospel its own witness, has pursued this train of argument, and made the infidel feel the point of the two-edged sword.

what valuable helps there are in books to enable us to manifest all this.

It is to be feared, however, that the doctrine of the Trinity has suffered from its defenders as well as from its adversaries. The moment we attempt to clear up a difficulty which the scriptures have not cleared, that moment we abandon our only safe guide, and plunge into the darkness of error. Most persons we think, will have found fewer difficulties in the scriptural statements on this subject, though they attempt not to explain the mystery, than in any human writings. Yet the adversaries of the doctrine compelled the church to the adoption of such a statement as the Athanasian Creed, to protect Christians from the sophistries of subtle and artful objectors. Humble and simple minds have found few difficulties in the reception of the Trinity. They take the practical and experimental view of the subject which is far more clear and satisfactory than the scholastic, systematic, speculative view of many orthodox statements, such as those of Waterland and others. It is never stated as a mere speculative dogma, however important, but in connexion with our own privileges and duties, as the objects of our faith and worship (Matt. xxviii. 19.) as the source of all spiritual blessings (2 Cor. xiii. 14. Rev. i. 4, 5.) as bearing their respective parts in the divine economy in every act of approach to God. Eph. ii. 18. We would not wholly decry the human attempts to set forth the doctrine; yet the clearest scholastic exhibition is far inferior in distinctness to the simple experimental view which is developed in the believer's spiritual apprehension of the gospel. We would not despise the light of a candle, though

VINISM and **ARMINIANISM**, has divided men of all denominations, and has led to some bitter and painful results. We fear almost to touch upon it; and yet every Christian will, at one time or other, be called to the consideration of this subject; and it may be useful to hazard a statement in which it has been thought that all good men may concur. The solution of the main difficulties in this controversy is far beyond the highest human intellect, and many on both sides have departed from the exact line of scriptural truth. I may, as an individual, prefer in the main what are called Calvinistic or Arminian views, but I should be prejudiced not to see that both sides, in their eager defence of their respective systems, have erred.

The statements of some eminently holy men, four of them bishops of the British Churches, and the fifth the celebrated Boyle, may place this controversy in a juster light than any private observations, and may tend to the instruction and edification of those whose sincere aim it is to seek both truth and peace.

BISHOP DAVENANT, in an excellent Treatise, 'An Exhortation to Brotherly Love,' says, 'This one thing alone belongs to the catholic and fundamental faith—That the free grace of God, in predestinating miserable men, in conversion of sinners, in setting free of men's wills; lastly in perseverance and salvation of the elect, be so fully acknowledged; that whatsoever he does to the attaining of the state of grace or glory, or whatsoever is done by men in reference thereunto, that wholly be given to God, and granted to God's special grace and mercy. On the other side, whatsoever pertains to the corruption of man's nature, whatsoever to his obstinacy in sin, whatsoever to the viciousness and servitude of free will; lastly, whatsoever draws miser-

able mortals to damnation, and tumbles them headlong into hell, that we impute all this to ourselves and our own demerits, and command it distance, to be far off from God Himself. While these things remain fixed and immoveable (as indeed they do remain), although in the doctrines built upon the foundation, they have divers manners of conceiving and forms of speaking; yea although they follow different opinions, such errors are not so deadly, that for their sakes a deadly hatred should be hatched, or that a perpetual schism ought to be nourished between the Churches.' ¹

On the very difficult subject, *The foreseen condemnation of the wicked*, Bishop Davenant says, 'All the Reformed Churches agree—That the act of reprobation in God, as that of election, is from eternity: that none is reprobated from eternity, which might not be reprobated without all cruelty and injustice. That no one was foredamned of God from eternity, whom he did not foresee wrapt up in the guilt of damnation. That no one shall in time be damned but through the most just merit of his own corruption and impiety. That the original and cause of all evil which drowns reprobates in perdition, is not found in God's reprobating, but in the reprobates themselves. That this eternal reprobation cannot appear to any particular person, unless out of the fruits most worthy of damnation, which he brings forth, and loves to bring forth, to the end of his life. That there is no single person which may not attain eternal life, by repenting, believing, and persevering, according to the tenor of the covenant of the gospel. That there is no such decree of God, by which reprobates should be forced and

¹ See Bishop Davenant's Exhortation, p. 27, 28.

necessitated to sin and perish ; but always they perish by their own voluntary unbelief and impiety, free and not constrained.'¹

The remarks of ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON are full of holy instruction. The excellent Archbishop says, ' we may confidently assert that all those things which the great Creator produces in different periods of time were perfectly known to Him, and as it were present with him from eternity, and every thing that happens throughout the several ages of the world, proceeds in the same order, and the same precise manner, as the Eternal Mind at first intended it should..... And according as all these things in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath, are daily regulated and directed by the Eternal King, in the same precise manner were they from all eternity ordered and disposed by Him.'

' These things we are warranted, and safe to believe : but what perverseness, or rather madness is it to break into the sacred repositories of heaven, and pretend to accommodate those secrets of the Divine Kingdom to the measures and methods of our weak capacities. To say the truth, I acknowledge that I am astonished, and greatly at a loss, when I hear learned men and professors of theology talking presumptuously about the order of the Divine Decrees, and when I read such

¹ St. Augustine's view of the subject evidently attributes this to the fall, and is stated in a beautiful illustration of a scripture, not immediately relative to the subject. (Psalm xxv. 10.) *Universæ autem viæ Domini misericordia et veritas. Investigabilis ergo est misericordia, qua cujus vult miseretur, nullis præcedentibus meritis : et investigabilis veritas, qua quem vult obdurat, ejus quidem præcedentibus meritis, sed cum eo cujus miseretur plerumque communibus.*

Augustini Opera x. p. 551. De dono perseverantiæ. cap. xi.

See also his Exposition of the subject at length on Rom. ix. in Epist. 105, 106.

things in their works. 'Paul considering this subject,' says Chrysostom, 'as an immense sea, was astonished at it, and viewing the vast abyss, started back and cried out with a loud voice, *O the depth.*' Nor is there much more sobriety or moderation in the many notions that are entertained, and the disputes that are commonly raised about reconciling the Divine Decrees, with the liberty and free will of man.—The great difficulty is the origin of evil . . . an abyss never to be perfectly sounded by any plummet of human understanding.'

He concludes the lecture with this direction, 'wherefore if you will take my advice, withdraw your minds from a curious search into this mystery, and turn them directly to a study of piety and a due reverence to the awful majesty of God. Think and speak of God and His secrets, with fear and trembling, but dispute very little about them; and if you would not undo yourselves, beware of disputing with Him; if you transgress in any thing, blame yourselves; if you do any good, or repent of evil, offer thanksgiving to God.'—See Lecture X.

Speaking on the *disobedient stumbling at the word—whereunto they were also appointed*, 1 Peter ii. 8. Leighton says, 'The secret purpose of God is accomplished in His having determined to glorify His justice on impenitent sinners, as he shows His rich mercy in them that believe. Here it were easier to lead you into a deep, than to lead you forth again. I will rather stand on the shore and silently admire it, than enter into it. This is certain, that the thoughts of God are all no less just in themselves than deep and unsoundable by us. His justice is always clear, in that man's destruction is always the fruit of his own

sin: but to give causes of God's decrees without himself, is neither agreeable with the primitive being of the nature of God, nor with the doctrine of the scriptures. This is sure, that God is not bound to give further account of those things, and we are not bound to ask it. Let those two words, as St. Augustine says, answer all, *What art thou, O man?* Rom. ix. 20. And *O the depth*, Rom. xi. 33. Our only sure way to know that our names are not in that black line, and to be persuaded that he has chosen us to be saved by his Son, is this, to find that we have chosen him, and are built on him by faith, which is the fruit of his love that chooses us; and that we may read in our esteem of him.'

Another eminent prelate, BISHOP HALL, wrote an excellent Treatise entitled the way of Peace 'to pick out what might sound towards concord.' He sums up his view of Predestination as follows:

'Whatsoever God, who is a God of truth, hath engaged himself by promise to do, the same He undoubtedly hath willed, and will accordingly perform.

'There is no son of Adam to whom God hath not promised, that if he shall believe in Christ, repent, and persevere, he shall be saved.

'This general and undoubted will of God must be equally proclaimed to all men throughout the world without exception, and ought to be so received and believed as it is by him published and revealed.

'All men within the pale of the Church especially, have from the mercy of God such common helps towards this belief and salvation, that the neglect thereof makes any of them justly guilty of their own *condemnation*.

“ Besides the general will of God, he hath eternally willed and decreed to give a special and effectual grace to those that are predestinate according to the good pleasure of His will, whereby they do actually believe, obey, and persevere, that they may be saved : so as the same God that would have all men to be saved, if they believe and be not wanting to his Spirit, hath decreed to work powerfully in some whom he hath particularly chosen, that they shall believe and not be wanting to his Spirit in whatsoever shall be necessary to their salvation.

“ It is not the prevision of faith or any other grace or act of man, whereupon this decree of God is grounded, but the mere and gracious good will and pleasure of God from all eternity, appointing to save those whom he hath chosen in Christ as the Head and foundation of the elect.

“ This decree of God’s election is absolute and unchangeable, and from everlasting.

“ God doth not either actually damn, or appoint any soul to damnation, without the consideration and respect of sin.”—See Works, vol. IX. p. 820, 821.

Though from his *Pax Ecclesiæ* (See p. 67—73.) which was published with his life, I should have considered BISHOP SANDERSON as holding similar views to Hall and Davenant, for he speaks plainly against Arminianism, only expressing his dislike of the excess of Calvinism ; yet his biographer Walton states that he changed his judgment. Let us quote, from the Tract published with his life, those sentiments which tend to remove what stands in the way of peace. He recommends “ that private men in particular churches, who dissent in points yet undetermined by the churches, should *not uncharitably interchange* each other with

heresy, or schism, or any such like imputation for so dissenting, so long as they both consent to the whole doctrine and discipline in the said church, maintained and established. As in the points now so much debated among the divines of the Church of England between the Calvinists and Arminians (for I must take liberty for distinction's sake, to express them by those names they usually bestow the one upon the other), why should either those men on the one side be branded with Popery, who misliking Calvin's doctrines, rather choose to follow the Arminian, or those on the other side with Puritanism, who finding less satisfaction in the way of Arminius, rather adhere to Calvin ? so long as both the one and the other do entirely, and freely, and ex animo, subscribe to the Articles of the Common Prayer Book, and that of Consecration, and do not rend the unity or disturb the peace of the Church by those differences.'¹

Very similar are the remarks of the Hon. Robert BOYLE. In his *Treatise on Seraphic Love*; speaking of the Calvinists and Remonstrants, he has these healing remarks. 'Those that are pious of either party are perhaps otherwise looked on by God than one another, as contending which of God's attributes should be most respected; the one seeming to affirm irrespective decrees to magnify his goodness, and the other to deny them but to secure the credit of his

¹ Bishop Horsley takes the same view in one of his charges. 'I know not what hinders but that the highest supralapsarian Calvinist may be as good a churchman as an Arminian. . . If we would look for warm advocates of church authority in general, and for able writers in defence of our own form of church government in particular, such we shall find among those divines of our church, who were called in their day the doctrinal Calvinists.'

justice. And even in honouring the same attribute, his goodness, these adversaries seem rivals, the one party supposing it best celebrated by believing it so irresistible, that to whomsoever it is intended, he cannot but be happy; and the other thinking it the most extolled by being believed so universal, that it will make every man happy if he pleases. The one party electing to honour *free grace*, by assigning it as to man an unlimitedly vast extent, as the other does by ascribing it an infallibly victorious degree.¹

It is the more important to give these testimonies, because of the indistinct and unsatisfactory manner in which this subject has often been treated in pulpits, and even in books, and the unjust obloquy cast upon those who only held the doctrines of the Reformation.

Bishop Horsley, speaking of modern writers not distinguishing that which is peculiar to Calvinism, and that which belongs to our common Christianity, and the general faith of the reformed churches, says, 'I must say, that I have found great want of this

¹ Boyle's Seraphic Love, 104.—In a Letter to Mr. Dury printed in his Life, he says, 'It has long been my grief, as well as my wonder to see such comparatively petty differences in judgment make such wide breaches and vast divisions in affection. It is strange that men should rather be quarrelling for a few trifling opinions, wherein they dissent, than to embrace one another for those many fundamental truths wherein they agree. For my own part, in some two or three and forty months which I spent in the very town of Geneva, as I never found that people discontented with their own Church Government, (the gallingness of whose yoke is the grand scarecrow that frights us here) so could I never observe in it any such transcendent excellency as could oblige me either to bolt heaven against, or open Newgate for all those that believe they may be saved under another.'

discrimination in some late controversial writings on the side of the church, as they were meant to be against the Methodists; the authors of which have acquired much applause, but with so little real knowledge of their subject, that, give me the principles on which these writers argue, and I will undertake to convict, I will not say Arminians only, and Archbishop Laud, but upon these principles I will undertake to convict the Fathers of the Council of Trent of Calvinism. So closely is a great part of that which is now ignorantly called Calvinism, interwoven with the very rudiments of Christianity.'

It is however a grand error to maintain the doctrines of grace merely as a matter of controversy, and to obtain a victory over an adversary. This is sure to raise all the opposition of the carnal mind. They are matters of experience; they are exhibited in the scriptures as blessings; they are not revealed to be disputed about, but to be received, to be testified, to be used, and to be enjoyed; and nothing can be more inconsistent than any thing like assumption of superior understanding, harshness, or bitterness of spirit manifested by those who profess to hold these doctrines towards those who hold them not. If we are eminent for professing—*what hast thou that thou didst not receive?* Surely pity, help and kindness, love and sympathy are due to those whom we believe not yet to have received; but who may yet receive far higher grace than we have obtained;—if by unbelief they at present are broken off, how obvious and important the lesson—*thou standest by faith, be not high-minded, but fear.*

These things have ever been controverted.—After alluding to the controversies of the Jansenists and

Molinists, the late Mr. Pearson says, ' If to these be added the names of Thomas Aquinas, Bradwardine, Baxter, Bayle, Hobbes, Bramhall, Crousaz, Placette, Leibnitz, Jurieu, Bossuet, Locke, Collins, Clarke, Butler, Jonathan Edwards, Reid, &c. men of comprehensive intellect, deep penetration, superior powers of reading, and unwearied diligence ; if men, gifted as these have been, were found unequal to the task of clearing away the difficulties, and dispelling the shades which incumber and darken the subject of human liberty and divine influence, a lesson of modesty and humility, at least, is bequeathed to those who may be tempted to resolve the questions with little distrust of their own sufficiency.'

The Author would venture to add a few remarks in favour of such a view of election as he conceives to be taken in the Seventeenth Article of his Church, an article which he believes to be framed with peculiar Christian wisdom, and which he does most unfeignedly and cordially receive.

Personal election by no means implies the rejection of such truths as Christ's dying for all¹—God's loving the world—and not wishing the death of a sinner. These are indubitable verities, revealed for the unspeakable consolation of sinful creatures, and to be freely proclaimed, unfettered by any human systems, to the whole human race—*Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.* The promises of God are to be *generally* proposed, and *ought* to be

¹ See Milner's sentiments on this subject—Church History, Vol. II. 466, 467. and Sermon on 2 Tim. ii. 19.

received by all.¹ It greatly aggravates guilt when any reject them; if they do reject them, it is entirely their own fault; but if they receive them, it is entirely from the grace of God. *O Israel thou hast destroyed thyself, but in me is thy help.* Here is enough general truth to unite us as fellow-christians in seeking to save, first our own souls, and then the souls of our fellow-creatures through the world. Things beyond this have little light thrown on them to gratify curiosity, and are chiefly hid in the unfathomable depth of the Divine mind, wholly inscrutable to the narrower range of human reason.

Objections to election, as in itself tending to careless living, are wholly groundless, as groundless as to suppose such objections from the very opposite view; for no one holds that God's people are elect unto sin; all who hold election in any way for which we would plead, hold it as the beginning and cause of holiness; and that obedience inseparably follows; so inseparably, that it is the very proof that we are elect: and that, were the most eminent Christian to begin wilfully to walk carelessly and neglectfully, or to live in allowed sin, we could not then view him as elect; he then would have just reason to fear, after all his works, that he was *acastaway*. (1 Cor. ix. 27. & Ezek. xviii.) Look at the lives of those men who have been most eminent in pleading for it; look at the Churches of Christ where it is held most distinctly, and we confidently affirm, that facts and experience well testify that such men and such

¹ 'We must receive God's promises in such wise, as they be *generally* set forth to us in Holy Scripture,' Article xvii.

There are some valuable and digested views on the consistency between general invitation and spiritual application, in Scott's Sermon on Election. John vi.

churches are not behind any others in strict and holy living. Will it not be sometimes found, that their strictness of life has been as offensive as their principles of religion? Orton, who was far from being a Calvinist, candidly admits, that he had long observed that those holding such sentiments were in general most serious and active in their ministry, and those of freer principles more indolent and languid; and that he had met with few exceptions.

The doctrine is useful in the ministry of the gospel, and in the experience of the Christian, chiefly because it altogether excludes the notion of salvation, otherwise than by the free favour of God, and tends to give us richer and fuller views of His infinite wisdom, love, and divine glory, and of the security, holiness, and happiness of his people. The explanations of texts relating to it which some give, do not really remove the objections which they suppose.—One is, that election is only of nations to external religious privileges; but election is in the New Testament connected with consequent holiness and obedience (Eph. i. 4. 2 Thes. ii. 13, 14, and 1 Peter. i. 1, 2), which, alas! we have not hitherto seen in nations; and if salvation be connected with plenitude of means of grace; and who will deny this? then does the supposed objection of partiality, which this explanation is intended to remove, apply as strongly to national as to personal election. Another is, that election is on account of foreseen faith and holiness; then, as no whole nation has faith and holiness, it cannot be national election; and as faith and holiness are allowed to be from grace, it is no removal of the objection of partiality. But the scripture phrase is of another character, and is, that *we are chosen not FOR holiness, but UNTO holiness.*

God cannot be partial so as to be unjust, and what fallen sinner can with truth open his mouth against the Divine Justice ? but God may be, and is sovereign and free in the disposal of His favours and blessings, and what saint will not magnify supremely His grace ?

On reprobation, as *the supposed opposite* to, and deduction from predestination, we have nothing to offer but our ignorance where scripture has not made things clear. God's rejecting the wicked is in no respect materially different from their final judgment and condemnation, on account of their sins ; and wherever stated, so as to impugn the divine equity, it is wholly unscriptural. We speak of the *supposed opposite* to predestination or deduction from it ; it is so in reality, though both the opposition and the deduction seem unavoidable upon logical principles ; but the most logical inference, unsupported by plain scripture, can never be received as an article of faith. If it be true, it must rest upon revelation, not upon logic. And surely upon consideration, most persons will allow that reprobation in its offensive meaning as the opposite of predestination, rests more upon logical deduction than scripture revelation.

The real opposite to *elect* in the Scripture is not *reprobate*, but *the world, the rest*. The term reprobate is not used with reference to the final condition of men in eternity, but with reference to disapprobation either of God or man in time, so that a sinner may by his open wickedness be manifestly reprobate in the scriptural meaning of the word, and yet afterwards by his conversion to God be manifested to be one of His children.

There is in the passage where the Apostle speaks on this deep mystery, a remarkable difference in the

mode of his expression as to those who are rejected and those who are saved; one is the enduring *with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath fitted* (or made up) *to destruction*, where the whole fault or cause of ruin rests manifestly on the rejected; the other as to *vessels of mercy which HE had afore prepared unto glory*, does also most clearly and manifestly ascribe all their salvation to His boundless grace.¹ Here is quite enough truth to satisfy the mind, till the light of glory unveil every mystery. But there is one sentiment especially awakening, that the present delay of punishment as to the wicked, is only in the result *to shew his wrath and make his power known*. O let us then without delay *flee from the wrath to come*. Have we not been disputing about doctrines till we have almost lost the plain and holy lessons which the words first obviously teach? If these were matters of reason, we might perhaps expect to attain to a full comprehension of them in all their relative connexions and seeming contrarieties. But are they not matters of faith belonging to the character of God? Where would be the room for faith, if there was that perfect comprehension that would explain every difficulty and harmonize to the eye of man every apparent contradiction? Nothing more plainly shows the imperfect view that either side have attained, than that each are pressed with inferences logically deduced, and yet which the advocates of each view are constrained to disavow. This is forcibly put (though more unction and devotion might be desired in the mode of statement) by Faber, in his Sermon on the Predestinarian Controversy.²

¹ The Author is happy to see, since he wrote the above, this view confirmed by Bengelius, Chrysostom, Doddridge, Bishop Jebb. —See Jebb's Sacred Literature, pp. 367—369.

² Mr. Simeon has, in a note to the Preface to his *Skeletons*,

Let every student then beware of intruding into those things which no man hath seen or can see. O the grievous rashness of expression and dogmatism of even holy men on these subjects ! We are perfectly ignorant of the turning point in the controversy ; nor have any human writings, which the author has seen, solved all the difficulties of the union of those two points which Christians believe to be equally true, man's salvation

happily stated some common grounds in which Calvinists and Arminians may agree, in a conversation which occurred between himself and Mr. Wesley, as follows—

‘ A young minister about three or four years after he was ordained had an opportunity of conversing familiarly with the great and venerable leader of the Arminians in this kingdom, and wishing to improve the occasion to the uttermost, he addressed him nearly in the following words :—‘ Sir, I understand that you are called an Arminian, I have been sometimes called a Calvinist, and therefore I suppose we are to draw daggers ; but before I consent to begin the combat, with your permission, I will ask you a few questions, not from impertinent curiosity, but for real instruction.’ Permission being very readily and kindly granted, the young minister proceeded to ask—‘ Pray, Sir, do you feel yourself a depraved creature, so depraved that you would never have thought of turning to God, if God had not first put it into your heart ? ’ ‘ Yes,’ says the veteran, ‘ I do indeed.’ ‘ And do you utterly despair of recommending yourself to God by any thing that you can do ; and look for salvation solely through the blood and righteousness of Christ ? ’—‘ Yes, solely through Christ.’—‘ But, Sir, suppose you were at first saved by Christ, are you not somehow or other, to save yourself afterwards, by your own works ? ’—‘ No, I must be saved by Christ from first to last.’ ‘ Allowing then that you were first turned by the grace of God, are you not in some way or other to help yourself by your own power.’—‘ No.’—‘ What then, are you to be upheld every hour and every moment by God, as much as an infant in its mother’s arms ? ’—‘ Yes, altogether.’—‘ And is all your hope in the grace and mercy of God, to preserve you unto his heavenly kingdom ? ’—‘ Yes, I have no hope but in him.’—‘ Then, Sir, with your leave, I will put up my dagger again ; for this is all my Calvinism ; this is my election, my justification by faith, my final perseverance ; it is in substance all that I hold, and as I hold it, and therefore, if you please, instead of *searching out terms and phrases to be a ground of contention between us, we will cordially unite in those things wherein we agree.*’

its parts entirely of grace, man's destruction of himself. The Scriptures and the Calvinists can do say many delightful things to illustrate the former ; and the Scriptures and the Arminians with us say many important truths to illustrate the latter. And all sound men on both sides earnestly press their points ; but after all, though God will be clear to his judges, the mystery is insolvable ; God has not removed this difficulty that man's proud intellect is humbled, and in its humiliation accept in its own spirit the only remedy. But God has withal created a conscience of right and wrong in every bosom, which shows him his guilt in all sin, and in a constant voice, till seared by habitual transgression, forbids every iniquity, and calls him to repentance. How sad is it that difficulties should be the ground of bitter railing ; and one side abuse the other as blind guides, and the other side return the charge of fatalism, and licentiousness, and every evil. Love should prevent all this. For the author's sake though he thinks that the Calvinists are nearer the truth, he verily believes that the points in difference may be so held, as to be perfectly consistent with the substantial and genuine piety of Christians who hold the views of Arminians ; and from his very heart, he would ever love such pious Arminians as love our Saviour Christ.

Who have looked into the Calvinistic Controversy will find that the over refinements of Calvinism, and the attempt to make every part clear and consistent, and the statements beyond the Scriptures, have been some principal stumbling-blocks in the way of the attainment of that in Calvinism which was scriptural. *We must humble ourselves before God ; we*

cannot wholly account for the entrance of sin, we cannot fathom the divine mind, we cannot scrutinize, and justly reason about, the mode of God's operations. We only betray our pride and folly when we attempt to do so. We are blind, and dark, and short-sighted worms, and know not a hair's breadth beyond the plain letter of scripture.¹

Making every allowance for the sentiments of others who differ from him, and every admission of the excess of the opposite views which he conscientiously could ; he would give the fullest credit for piety and sincerity to those who may come to a different conclusion, and desires to walk with them in holy love (Phil. iii. 15, 16.). But for himself he would add, he could not refuse to receive the doctrines as he has here stated them, without feeling that he had not arrived at the simplicity of entire submission of mind to the Holy Scripture, or at that full integrity of heart in which he wishes every sentiment of his mind to be moulded, according to the plain unfettered meaning of God's word. According to his present knowledge, he could not come to other conclusions, without what would be to him evasions of its meaning, and the exaltation of his own wisdom above the divine wisdom. Others of opposite views will doubtless feel the same ; let us then *walk in love*, and seek not the exaltation of human wisdom, but to magnify Him *in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom*. Let us be most anxious in every discussion to cultivate that state of mind in which we wish to be found in our last moments : we would not then be dealing angry blows towards those

¹ See Ridley's Sentiments, Richmond's Fathers, Vol. IV. 249.

fellow-servants who had gone farthest from understanding their master's will. Admirable are the Christian sentiments of Bradford, addressed 'to certain men not rightly persuaded in the most true, comfortable, and necessary doctrine of God's holy election and predestination.' Just before his martyrdom, after praying that there may be no breach of love, nor suspicion among them, he says, 'I am persuaded of you that you fear the Lord, and therefore I love you, and have loved you in him, (my dear hearts) though otherways you have taken it, without cause given on my part, so far as I know.—Now I am going before you to my God and your God, to my father and your father, to my Christ and your Christ, to my home and your home. I go before, but you shall come after sooner or later.'¹ He concludes another letter—'Though in some things we agree not, yet let love bear the bell away, and let us one pray for another, and be careful one for another, for I hope we be all Christ's. As you hope yourselves to pertain to him, so think of me, and as you be his, so am I yours.'²

Indeed one of the comforts of God's best servants in their last moments have been the blessed assurance of freedom from all controversy in heaven. Thus Melancthon, a short time before his death, wrote down these as reasons for being willing to die, that he should be released from the fierce contentions of polemics, and learn those hidden mysteries which he could not in this life comprehend. Strigelius breathed out his soul to God in similar sentiments.³

¹ See Bradford's Letters, p. 473.

² Do. p. 475.

³ See Mel. Adam. Vita. Strigelii.

Having given these general hints on particular controversies, we will now add some practical directions on the subject.

If compelled to pursue controversial studies, and drawn out into controversy, **WATCH AGAINST ITS MANY EVILS.**

The unhappiness of controversy is, that human passions are roused by it; and when once the matter is passed into the affections, a sound judgment is lost; our own honour, however much God's is pretended, becomes the real object of contention. We love so much our own conceits and inventions, especially when we have once publicly avowed them, others admire them, and our wisdom seems committed in them, that no strength of argument shown by others will induce us to give them up. Few of the parties, once fairly engaged in the controversy, ever change their mind. We forget that the spirit of Christian love wins far more than the keenness and acuteness of polemics. But let us fear lest we bring disputations, disunions, and bitterness among fellow Christians, and ruin millions of immortal souls, by seeking ourselves, under the vain pretence of seeking God and His glory. It is well observed by Jackson,¹ 'To love our own wills is an impotency natural to all; and we love them the better, at least more strongly, when we perceive them set on that which is itself good. Whence it is that our desires of doing many things which are good and commendable often draw us to use means not so commendable for their accomplishment.'

We would particularly caution young Christians not to begin with controversy, and perplex themselves

¹ See Works, Vol. II. as quoted by Southey.

with deep mysteries ; this would be much to their loss and hindrance, by diverting their mind from the grand essentials of the gospel. All habits increase by practice and exercise, and therefore another of the dangers of controversy is a love of controversy, which is usually attended with much if not total blindness to the dangers consequent upon it.

Watch against strong and rash expressions : they often do much mischief. Hardly any good man but has, in some point, fallen into such mistakes, and then his mistakes have been used as a weapon against divine truth, perfectly contrary to the main sentiments of the writer. When contending against a particular error, men are apt to look only at that, and in guarding against it, fall into the opposite error. God has not always in one place fully expressed His truth, but in the whole scriptures he guides us to just views, and guards us against every error connected with that truth. Against the self-righteous how plain is Paul ; against the licentious how express is James. Manton observes, ‘ The scripture has so poised and contempered all doctrines and expressions, that it might wisely prevent mistakes and errors on every hand, and that sentences might not be violently urged apart, but measured by the proportion of faith.’¹

Some become so attached to individuals, or so prejudiced against them, that they will approve or not approve the very same sentiments, just according as they are uttered by different persons. Others totally misname things, and call divine grace, Antinomianism ; or the unquestionable truth of man’s moral responsibility,

¹ See *Manton’s Exposition on James*, p. 337.

Pelagianism. We are all too eager for our own particular notions. One observes, 'The greatest humility becomes us in speaking of what is our own. When grievous wolves creep in they spare not the flock, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them. I scarce ever knew an author who had a posthum in divinity, a contrivance of his own, but he was more impatient for that, than the great fundamentals of Christianity. He could argue against the man who denies the truth, with more temper, than against one who is afraid of his scheme.'

There is particular danger in the tendency to over estimate and exaggerate the importance of a controverted doctrine, so as to set it above all others. 'Great,' says Davenant, 'is the unhappiness of Christians, where, by reason of the noise and overmuch heat of controversies, they have scarcely leave or leisure to hear or think of the fundamental and saving doctrine of the scriptures, and not at all to do those deeds most necessarily required by God's commandments.'

O the misery of man! that, through the pride of his fallen heart he is more desirous of the praise of knowledge, than of the attainments of real holiness; and is more engaged in quarrelling with those who dispute his sentiments, than with those living in sin, or than in striving to spread love, humility and piety.

Such are some of the many dangers of controversy. We are all seeking distinction and the honour that comes from man, and here is an endless source of contention. *Only by pride cometh contention.*

Carefully AVOID A MERE WAR OF WORDS. It is St. Paul's solemn direction to Timothy, to charge his hearers *before the Lord, that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.* The history of controversies is an awful comment on this direction. How many have been subverted by the contentions of real Christians! How many controversies have come to a mere war of words! Werenfel's Treatise on Logomachies and Baxter's Catholic Theology afford abundant specimens of this sad effect, and this waste of Christian strength. It arises from that pride of heart which seeks its own glory, and is followed by innumerable evils. *If any man, . . . consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.* Erasmus, in the Preface to Hilary's Works, says, 'The doctrine of Christ, which at the first was free from strife of words began to depend on the defences of philosophy; this was the first degree of the Church's declension to the worse.' But while there are these solemn cautions against a war of words, we must not interpret them so as to be indifferent to the form of sound words, for there is, in the very same Epistle, a direction to *hold fast the form of sound words.*

Beware of TAKING AN OPPONENTS DESCRIPTION, OR HIS INFERENCES, AS GIVING THE JUST VIEW OF THE OPINION WHICH HE OPPOSES. We first misunderstand an opponent, and then misrepresent him,

and nothing kindles more strife and enmity. **What** misrepresentations are there on all sides. **Bishop Hall** says, 'Let a man believe **Andrew Jurgivicius**, he will think the Protestants hold no one article of the **Apostle's** creed. Let him believe **Campion**, he shall think we hold God to be the author of sin; that the **Mediator** between God and man, **Jesus**, died the second death; that all sins are equal, and many more of the same bran. If he shall believe **Cardinal Bellarmine**, he shall condemn **Erasmus** as a patron of **Arians**; **Luther** as an enemy to the **Holy Trinity**, and to the consubstantiality of the **Son of God**; **Melancthon** and **Scheckius** as favourers of the **Tritheists**; **Calvin** as an advocate of the **Samosatenians**; **Bullinger** of **Arianism**; **Beza** of **Nestorianism**. If he will believe our countryman **Gifford**, he shall think **Calvin's** doctrine in many things worse than the **Koran**. Ill will never said, Well, God forbid that the same man should be in the same case accuser, witness, and judge.'¹ Nor must we charge our opponent with the consequences which we think may be justly inferred, when he positively denies those consequences. **Bucer** remarks, 'It is our part to see not what does of itself follow upon any opinion, but what follows in the conscience of those who hold that opinion which we think contrary to a fundamental article.'

BE CAUTIOUS OF ASSERTING OPINIONS ON A difficult and obscure doctrine TILL YOU HAVE READ BOTH SIDES. The most important doctrines are so clear and distinct, that like the sun they are manifest by

¹ See **Bishop Hall's Christian Moderation. Works, Vol. VII. 447—455.**

their own light ; such as the sin and ruin of man, salvation by Christ Jesus, the divine glory of his person, and the freedom of his grace, faith in Him, adoption by his Spirit, the necessity of holiness, and the certain and final condemnation of every unbeliever. To read controversies which would seek to set aside these points, is like reading an elaborate proof that two and two make five. Life is too short, and its work too important to be trifled away. But there are other points where good men have differed, and which yet are of considerable importance. Many books might have been spared ; many erroneous statements would never have appeared ; much serious division and contention might have been prevented, had persons known the whole of a controversy before they publicly avowed their sentiments. When once committed by the statement of an opinion, we shrink from the humiliation of retractation, and so error is perpetuated. We would not recommend much study of controversial works, thinking it prejudicial ; but if you read Whitby on the five points, read Dr. Gill's reply ; Dr. Crisp's sermons led to Daniel Williams' Gospel Truth ; if you read that, read also Chauncy's Neonomanism Unmasked ; Neale's History of the Puritans, should be studied with Bishop Madox's Vindication ; Goodwin's Redemption, with Kendal's and Owen's Replies ; Toplady's Historic Defence, with Nicholl's Calvinism and Arminianism ; Bishop Mant on Baptismal Regeneration, with Scott's or Biddulph's Reply. From the very beginning, in order that we should call no man master, it has pleased God to permit mistakes by good men, even in most useful treatises. Anselm observes even in his day, ' In the books of holy teachers, which the church

reads as authentic, things corrupt and heretical are sometimes found, but the books and authors are not to be condemned for this.' We have seen similar defects in human writings in our day. Take, for instance, Hervey's *Theron and Aspasio*. Few books have been so useful, yet, like every human writing, it is not free from error; though substantially right, are not hope and assurance sometimes confounded with faith? Bellamy writes his *Dialogues* with some asperity, but with talent and piety to point out what he thought erroneous; but he mistakes Hervey, and makes needless difficulties in the way of the sinner's return to God: Mr. Scott, in his *Warrant of Faith* shows this: it is a valuable tract; but after all, with a few exceptions, the clear statements of divine truth, in Hervey's *Theron and Aspasio*, and his *Christian addresses*, full of kindness and affection, gentleness, and sweetness of spirit, draw out your best feelings, and win you over to evangelical principles. It is an advantage, however, to compare such writers and read them together. A person who reads both sides, comparing all with the scriptures, and with a heart anxious only after scriptural truth, may derive great instruction from each side. Let us endeavour to find out, and guard against our constitutional or acquired prejudices which arise chiefly from our limited and contracted views.¹ Do not, however, yield to party feelings; the parties engaged have a natural tendency to become special pleaders for their own views, and to be so filled with a sense of the danger of one extreme as to fly to another. Ordinarily the truth is

¹ See some excellent remarks in Cecil's *Remains*, on judging justly.

vealed but in part to any. How valuable then are the scriptures where all is simple truth !

Beware of ARTIFICIAL SYSTEMS OF DIVINITY. That the scripture contains an harmonious system, and that there is connexion, and dependance, and proportion, of the several parts, of truth is unquestionable. But to discern this system clearly in every component part, requires an eye perfectly single, without a dark spot of sin, or prejudiced reasoning of any kind. It is also unquestionable that a full and clear statement gathered from all parts of scripture is advantageous ; but implied consequences, where the scripture has not stated those consequences, and artificial plans and arrangements of truth, may deprive us of the power and simplicity of truth, and even prejudice the mind of others against it. In this view it appears to me that many excellent writers have gone too far in their distinctions. Let us keep to scriptural terms and ideas, and not be wise above what is written. Let us also not interpret figurative expressions too minutely. Where scripture is plain and obvious, there is a clear ground of faith. Where it is ambiguous or intricate, suspend your judgment, neither affirm nor deny; but humble yourself before God and admire His majesty. Especially, seek not by human additions to make every part clear in your own system. That system which is more exact and clear than the scriptures is so far false. We ought to be as fairly chargeable with inconsistency as the book of God. But we are often in study attending rather to the theory and science of theology, than to practical obedience; and the holy efficacy of scriptural truth. Some of the best Puritan writers fell into this fault of a too

refined or artificial divinity. Dr. Owen was, as Mr. Cecil observes, too systematic.

CULTIVATE A SPIRIT OF TENDER LOVE TOWARDS ALL FROM WHOM YOU DIFFER. Anger is soon excited in a religious controversy, and nothing is more prejudicial to its happy termination. When the Archangel Michael had to contend with Satan, he had a good cause and the worst adversary, yet his pure and holy nature would not sully itself by angry words and railing accusation. Dr. Manton observed, 'When tongue is sharpened against tongue, and pen against pen, what follows? Nothing but mutual animosities and hatred, whereby, if we gain aught of truth, we lose much of love and goodness. . . . Those engage most successfully that use the hardest arguments and the softest words; whereas railings and revilings, as they are without love, so are they without profit.'¹ I admire the words of Augustine to the sceptics of his age. He says, 'Let those rage against you who know not with what labour truth is found, and how hard it is to avoid errors, who know not with what difficulty the eye of the interior man is healed, who know not with what groans and sighs we get to understand the very least of God.' This spirit of love is of vast importance, and even good men have failed in this respect. Bishop Davenant speaking of the controversies in Holland, says, 'I doubt not to affirm that those Doctors among the Dutch churches which are deceived, and yet are ready to retain brotherly communion with others, are held more excused from schism before God, than they who maintain the true opinion in these controversies,

¹ See Manton on James, p. 166.

and in the mean time disdain to hold brotherly communion with other churches desiring the same.'¹

It is a hard and, I trust, a generally unmerited censure which Orton brought against faithful clergymen; but even a false charge may teach a true lesson. He says, 'Those who, I hope, are truly serious and concerned to do good, are frequently great bigots to the Church, and very uncharitable in their sentiments, and will secretly undermine the reputation of a dissenting minister if they can, when they find he is not as narrow and rigid as themselves.'² It was the observation of Mede, in a day when he had full opportunity for ascertaining the fact, 'A man that has once drawn blood in controversy, is seldom known ever perfectly to recover his own good temper afterwards.'

How beautiful, on the other hand, is that spirit which returns kindness for unkindness, and instead of railing gives a blessing. Thus did Augustine towards his opponents.³ Thus did Calvin, in a letter to Bullinger, highly commending Luther, who had abused him. He says, 'I am often accustomed to say that if he should call me devil, yet I will still honour and acknowledge him as an eminent servant of God.' Calvin's Epistles, 239. In later times both Hooker and Scott have afforded a beautiful specimen of the mode in which controversy should be conducted. How little have stronger Christians acted on the direction, *We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.* Supposing our views to be correct, why should we despise

¹ See Exhortation, p. 44. ² See his Letters, Vol. i. 116.

³ See Milner, Vol. ii. 468.

others (Matt. xviii. 10.) as unworthy of our affection and communion, for some weakness in their understanding? How little love there is in this scorn and disdain of those whom we think to be in the wrong! Let us melt in pity and tenderness on their behalf: it will often do far more for union and edification than 'depth of learning, knowledge of antiquity, authority of councils, sharpness of wit, and the name of Church,' and all those things to which we attach the most weight. Hard names serve only to exasperate: harshly judging others leads them harshly to judge us. Christ's rule is *judge not*. The moralist condemns the doctrinalist for enthusiasm and antinomianism, and is in his turn condemned for subverting the gospel. Churchmen and dissenters rail against each other.¹ The lukewarm man accuses the zealous of

¹ These things are seen in their true light in a dying hour. Lewis Du Moulin had in his life-time published various violent and bitter things against churchmen. But on his death-bed he had the piety and integrity to sign the following recantation: 'As for my books, in which I mixed many personal reflections, I am now sensible I mixed too much of my own passions and bitterness; and therefore I disclaim all that is personal in them, and am heartily sorry for every thing I have written to the defaming of any person. I humbly beg God, and all those I have so wronged, pardon, for Jesus Christ's sake; and am resolved, if God shall spare my life, never to meddle more with such personal things; and do earnestly exhort all people, as a dying man, that they will study more love and mutual forbearance in their differences, and will avoid all bitter and uncharitable reflections. And as I pray those worthy men of the Church of England to have charity and tenderness for the dissenters from them; so I beg of the dissenters, that they would have a due regard and respect to those of the Church of England; of many of whom I now say, let my soul be with theirs; and that all true Protestants may heartily unite and concur in the defence and preservation of the holy reformed religion, now by the mercy of God settled among us. And that men of all sides may, according to St. Paul's rule, cease to bite and devour one another, lest we be destroyed one of another; and that whereunto we have already attained we may walk by the same rule, hoping that if any man is

pride and making a party, and he, in his turn, is charged with lukewarmness and spiritual death; and love turns and sighs over all. One word spoken in love would often do more than a thousand words of hard censure, or volumes of controversy.

It may promote this spirit of love ever to remember our own natural blindness, our obligations to divine grace, and our limited knowledge at best. Human judgment on divine things is formed from the divine light imparted to us, and according to evidence that comes before us. We cannot discern the whole perhaps of any case. However sound, therefore, our judgment may be before our fellow-creatures, it is at the best very imperfect before God; but however defective it may appear to men, there may be views on the evidence before our minds, in which it may be correct. We must not then despise each other's judgment. The main thing requisite to form a judgment according to the mind of God, the only thing of supreme importance, is to have that spiritual mind, which enables us to discern something of the relative proportion and value of all things, and raises us above the natural selfishness of our hearts.

We may learn hence to be very forbearing and tender to each other's apparent ignorances and infirmities. Something in the conduct of another may to us appear very untrue and unjust, very severe and uncharitable; but, perhaps, the light of heaven may

otherwise minded in some lesser things, God shall either reveal that to him, or mercifully forgive it, through Jesus Christ, into whose hands I commend my spirit, and desire to appear before God in and through Him who gave himself for me, and therefore do now study to learn of Him to be meek and lowly in heart, and to love all the brethren as he loved me.'

Oct. 5, 1680.

LEWIS DU MOULIN.

discover to us, that that which had this appearance was in reality from the situation of that person, and the evidence before him; an embracing of the truth, and an exercise of great forbearance, kindness, justice, and charity. To their unspeakable and most joyful surprise, Christian acquaintances, who were cold and suspicious on earth, may hereafter find that they greatly wronged each other, and learn afresh to admire that grace from which all that is good really comes, and which has pardoned and accepted all.

Let us ever remember the nature of charity; as it *searcheth*, or *covereth*, *all things*, *believeth all things*, *hopeth all things*, *endureth all things*. *Charity never faileth*. This will lead us to put, if possible, a favourable construction on the words of those from whom we differ, and enable us far more effectually to illustrate the real doctrine. Men very often mean the same truth, while they express it differently. Yet never let us practise that spurious charity which is the birth of indifference and infidelity. We must on the one hand *hold fast the form of sound words*, and on the other *speak the truth in love*. Divine Spirit! Thou Spirit of truth and love! enable us to manifest by these graces that we are thine!

Remember that NO TRUTH IS REVEALED IN THE SCRIPTURES FOR SPECULATIVE PURPOSES, and that, however CHRISTIANS may differ on the speculative point, they AGREE IN DESIRING ONE AND THE SAME PRACTICAL INFLUENCE. Ten thousand things are not revealed, which our curiosity would prompt us to wish had been revealed. Nothing is manifested but what is profitable for us to know for devotional, and practical use. The divine sovereignty, the freedom of grace, the operations of the Holy Ghost, the

attributed to God ; are all most influential in producing these holy tempers and dispositions which Christians profess universally to desire, and without which we are not meet for the heavenly inheritance. It should tend to draw good men nearer to each other, to remember, that however they may form different speculative conclusions on doctrinal points, from the same passages, if real Christians, they agree in practical conclusions, and they wish for themselves, and for each other the highest possible degrees, attainable on earth, of faith, hope, and love, of conformity to the divine mind and will, of humility, contrition, self-denial, and devotedness to God. Here there is no dispute among them. The differences of real Christians are more as to the mode of producing these results, than as to the results themselves ; and how painful that those differences should often be so maintained as to destroy the very results which they are aiming to produce. *Whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing :¹*

Be willing to SUSPEND YOUR JUDGEMENT ON DOUBTFUL POINTS. Is there nothing to be revealed hereafter ? Are there no higher attainments of knowledge after years of experience in the Christian life and of lengthened study ? Will not the glory of the heavenly world throw a full blaze of light which we cannot now anticipate ? *What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter.* There is much holy confidence and submission to God and many other Christian feelings to be exercised in such a

¹ It is an important truth ' Si in necessariis sit unitas, in non necessariis libertas ; in utrisque charitas, optimo certe loco essent res nostræ !'

suspense of judgment. On great points, on salvation of Christ, free justification, adoption, sanctification; let us be very bold and strenuous, contend earnestly for the faith: on more doubtful points, when we have not clear views, and our opinion is asked; let us reply with Augustine—‘I had not know than be ignorant of the questions which you me; but because I cannot attain it, I had rather admit cautious ignorance, than profess a false knowledge.’ This seems to have been the habit of mind.

Endeavour to derive PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENT FROM CONTROVERSY. Differences of opinion do teach us many practical lessons. When eminent scholars and Christians disagree in important points, how plain the duty not to lean to our own understanding; but to be as babes before our God, ever seeking His guidance! This is a school in which we should learn humility, forbearance, and candour; the weakness of human reason, the inestimable benefit of that truth of unquestionable and incontrovertible truth which we have in God’s book, and the absolute necessity having the foundation of our faith only on His word. Seek to make a practical use of known truth, and that which is unknown will by degrees, as far as it is profitable, be revealed to you.

The different views of Christians have sometimes been perverted to keep men from all religion. Persecutors have made it an excuse for wholly neglecting the souls. They have gladly availed themselves of such a plausible argument, and God, leaving them to their

own wicked wishes, has allowed them, in just judgment, to go on in the way which they desired, till it issued in their everlasting ruin. They blind their minds now with the sophistry, 'let Christians agree on their religion, and then I will attend to it.' The sophistry will all be dispelled at the day of judgment, and the neglect of plain things, because of differences about more obscure things will only disclose and evidence the real cause of this neglect—an inward hatred of God and his ways. How many things are perfectly clear and undisputed, among all having any pretence to the name of Christians! Attend to those. There is a glorious God—there is a complete Saviour—there is a Guide, and Sanctifier, and Comforter—there is pardon for sin, meetness for heaven, resurrection from the dead, judgment to come, and immortal bliss for the righteous. You cannot doubt these—they are clear—they are without controversy. Use them daily and improve them, and intermeddle not with things doubtful and mysterious, till you lose all religious principles and all hope.

But if called to maintain and defend scriptural truth, remember, that without the experience of the power of that truth, you are little qualified to be its advocate, and can do little good. Dr. Owen strongly urges the importance of having abiding in our hearts the power of the truth contended for. He justly says—"When not the sense of the words, but of the things is in our hearts; when we have communion with God in the doctrine we contend for, then shall we be garrisoned by the grace of God against all the assaults of men. Without this, all our contending is of no value to ourselves. What am I the better if I can dispute that *Christ is God*; but have no sense that

he is a God in covenant with my soul. What will it avail me to evince, by testimonies and arguments, that he has made satisfaction for sin, if, through my unbelief, the wrath of God abides on me? Will it be any advantage to me in the issue to profess and dispute that God works the conversion of a sinner, by the irresistible grace of his Spirit, if I was never acquainted, experimentally, with that opposition to the law of God, which is in my own soul by nature, and with the efficacy of the exceeding greatness of the power of God, in quickening, enlightening, and bringing forth the fruits of obedience in me? It is the power of the truth in the heart alone, that will make us cleave to it indeed in an hour of temptation. Let us not then think that we are any thing the better for our conviction of the great doctrines of the gospel, unless we have a continual experience of their necessity and excellency in our standing before God, and our communion with him.¹

When shall we rise to those higher regions of Christianity, that purer and better air of Christian faith, and hope, and love; in which some of God's favoured servants have lived—like Enoch walking with God; or like Paul saying, *I will very gladly spend and be spent for you, though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved?*

The conflict with a man's own corruptions is one step towards this. When daily struggling with the power of inward sin, and humbled to the dust under the continual rebuffs of Satan, when sensible that there is an inward scene of abominations which man

¹ See his Works, Vol. viii. pp. 79, 80.

beholdeth not, but God beholds; who can be severe against his neighbour. Leighton well speaks of a useful controversy, or dispute, one sort of war, most noble in its nature, and most worthy of a Christian, and this not to be carried on against enemies at a great distance, but such as are bred within our own breasts; against these it is most reasonable to wage an endless war, and then it is our duty to persecute to death. A view of the glory of the Saviour is another step towards that holy and heavenly spirit. The Church cannot be united till, like the inhabitants above, we behold his glory, as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth; and thence, filled with love and admiration, aim at this one object, the advancement of His honour, and the exaltation of His name.

CHAPTER VIII. *Study and War*

THE DANGERS CONNECTED WITH STUDY. THERE may be some ready at first to think that there is little need to dwell on this point, and that we should rather urge the indolent to active study, than warn men of the dangers of study. But the address made by the prophet Isaiah to Babylon of old, is still too applicable in our day—*Thy wisdom and thy knowledge hath perverted thee, and thou hast said in thine heart: I am, and there is none besides me.* And it must be admitted that wicked men, the more learning they have, are the more dangerous to the truth. Their abuse of knowledge has led pious men to undervalue

learning, as if it was the cause of this evil, and the acquired knowledge was to blame for the moral depravity ; but it may effectually guard against such errors to look at the extensive usefulness of a Hooker, an Usher, a Hall, or a Beveridge, in the Church of England ; an Owen, a Charnock, a Howe, and an Edwards, among those of another communion.

Yet are there real dangers encompassing and surrounding every human attainment, and our corruption breaks forth amidst all that which should restrain it. We see learning without piety extensively injurious. We see immense learning, and we hope real piety, in many Romanists, such as Bellarmine and others, and all their talents and learning perverted to the maintenance of fundamental errors. We see learning without piety puffing up its possessor with intolerable pride, and leading him to the haughty and disdainful contempt of all who have not similar learned acquirements.

But let us notice more distinctly some of the dangers of study.

The first that may be mentioned is **FORMING OUR RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS FROM OUR OWN REASONING POWERS**, rather than from the divine record. Truths, we are tempted to think, are to be made out by argument, by intellect, by the powers of the mind, and by human literature. Like our first parents, we are seeking divine wisdom independently of God. Let these controlling thoughts reign over and regulate our studies : God only can teach the things of God ; He teaches in His word, and under the guidance of His Holy Spirit ; every thing must be subject to that word, and every thought brought *into captivity to the obedience of Christ*. Nothing whatever that is human will stand *against His word* ; nor will our own notions in the least

help us when we appear before Him, and have to give account how far we have believed and acted according to that word. The love of our own sentiments, because they are our own, seeking to display our skill rather than to exercise holy feelings, and the desire to maintain sentiments which have been once, and perhaps without due premeditation, avowed, have led to much mischief. Beware of your own particular views, and especially of an early declaration of them. There is also another view in which we may regard this danger : when we receive things only as we can comprehend them by reason. We may see to what an awful extent this has been carried among the Neologians on the continent, who aiming to subject every part of revelation to their own vain conceptions of what is right and wrong, enter into the very regions of infidelity. But there is a serious degree of the same evil among professing Christians. Every thing is with some to be so made out by reason, that no room is left for faith and the promises. They will go as far as their reason will carry them, but they hesitate where something above reason is to be received. Now though God's service is in the highest degree *a reasonable service*, yet the very peculiarity of Christianity is faith in the promise. This made the whole army of believers (Heb. xi.) so triumphant ; this carried the Apostles and the Reformers through difficulties insurmountable to reason ; and only as we live by faith, and above the scanty reach of this world's wisdom, are we genuine Christians, glorifying God, and advancing the gospel. See 1 Cor. i. 11.

2. A similar danger to the one last mentioned is **TAKING OUR SENTIMENTS MERELY FROM HUMAN AUTHORS : we say merely**, for there is a just respect

due to human authority. Parents must teach their children the first principles of religion ; ministers must teach their people the gospel of Christ ; and children and people should hear with meekness and submission the word of truth. But Christian parents and faithful teachers will be anxious in every truth which they teach, to bring before those whom they instruct the only sure foundation of truth, the word of God ; and to tell them, " take it not on my word, but on the word of Him who is my Teacher and my Father, as well as yours ; " this will give its just strength to religious truth, and lay a foundation that will support the soul amid all the shakings and storms of this life. Too generally, however, we are leaning not on Jehovah and His truth, but on man and his opinions ; and the turning point in our minds is not the overwhelming testimony of the sacred word, after a due search of that word, but the weight of human testimony, and so human writings thrust out the divine record. Luther expressed his fear even in his day of too great a multiplication of books : that as fathers, councils, and doctors had superseded the apostles, so it should be again ; and he modestly said he wished his own books to last only for the age in which they were written, and which they might serve ; believing that God would give to succeeding ages their own labourers, as he had always heretofore done. ¹

It marks a tendency to this danger when Christians are too much afraid of men of this world's literature, and pay too much court to them, and speak too highly of them, as if men greatly skilled in human learning

¹ See Scott's Continuation, Vol. i. p. 242.

was, on that account alone, to have great differences shown to them in religion; if nationally God addressed his people, I have raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons; O Greece; the day too will come, when spiritually it will be seen, that to be a member of Zion, to receive the lively oracles, to know and love God, is infinitely superior to all the acquirements of classical literature, and all the arts and sciences of the world.

3. IMPROPER MOTIVES FOR STUDY are very common. Some will read to pass away the time; others to be able to talk of a book; others to gain admiration by criticising it; others because they shall be thought ignorant if they have not read it. There are those who will read for the very purpose of finding fault and quibbling. What spiritual profit can be expected from books which are read from these motives! how can improvement be reaped when it was not even thought of, or sought for! The mere acquisition of knowledge, for the pleasure which it gives, or for the superiority which it confers, is not that Christian motive from which we should pursue our studies. The Rev. Mr. Adam forcibly observes, 'Reading is, for the most part, only a more refined species of sensuality, and answers man's purpose of shuffling off his great work with God and himself, as well as a ball, or a masquerade.'¹ Our chief motives should be of a far higher kind: to know that we may do the will of God: to be better fitted for serving him and our fellow creatures here; and better prepared for the everlasting state on which we are so soon to enter.

4. MISDIRECTION IN STUDY is a very serious

¹ See his Works, Vol. II. p. 207.

danger. When first a thirst for knowledge is excited in the mind, it is immensely important to be directed aright. If misdirected, or if following only accidental circumstances, a person reads that which only leads him astray, it may cost him many a wearisome step back again, and days and years of usefulness may be for ever lost. There have been ministers who have honestly and openly before their people felt themselves constrained to retract what before they had taught as divine truth; and infinitely sadder and happier is so painful a result, than when to the end *the blind lead the blind* till both are lost. In general it is not safe to go wholly in the track of any human party; we have all our partialities. But how shall we be preserved from this danger; the ignorant need a guide, and those without knowledge cannot but look to others who at least possess more learning and more information than themselves? The chief guard is the word of God, read with fervent prayer, and practised as far as we know with holy fear. Possessing this fear, while a man only goes as far as he has clear testimonies of scripture, he will either never materially err, or will in the result be preserved from all fatal misdirection. Remember, *with the well-advised is wisdom.* Prov. xiii. 10.

5. THE NEGLECT OF PRACTICAL PIETY is another danger of study. Those who have eagerly entered into studies have felt this. It is the remark of Hætuſius, in describing his own experience on this point, 'I was entirely carried away by the pleasure which I found in learning, and that endless variety which it affords had so taken up my thoughts, and seized all the avenues of my mind, that I was altogether incapable of any sweet and intimate communication with

God. These wanderings and indisposition of mind have ever been my grand failing, and they still break in on my prayers, and quite deprive me of all the benefit that I should reap from them. When I withdrew into religious retirement, in order to recollect my scattered thoughts, and fix them on heavenly things, I experienced a dryness and insensibility of soul, by which the holy Spirit seemed to punish this excessive bent to learning, and the indifference which I had for my spiritual advancement.'

: From the intense interest which close study calls forth, and from the immense importance of the truths which we are considering, we are apt to get so abstracted in our studies as to neglect our daily duties. Hereafter we shall contemplate, admire, and enjoy; here we are born to toil and labour. But, in fact, no studies teach more effectually, as we have shown, than a faithful practice of religion; intercourse with the poor, visits to the sick and dying, actual conversations with persons in spiritual difficulties, give an experimental knowledge of Theology far beyond books. Never let that time be given to private studies, which positive and plain duties call for. For instance, the duties of his station in life, must not be neglected by the Christian; the duties of visiting, instructing, and comforting the sick, the tempted, and the afflicted must not be omitted, in order to attend to private studies. God gives different gifts. Some men are more especially qualified for learned pursuits, and called to them, and may therefore more entirely devote themselves to them; but might not some who have been thus occupied, who have seemed to vegetate in books, and to bring no result of real profit to the Church, have been far better employed in directly practical and beneficial

services to the church? We must attend to the practical part of religion, if we would avoid the dangers of merely theoretical views in the mind which may be worse than useless.

We sometimes see the painful case, of one who is fully acquainted with the theory of religion, but ignorant of its power; having bright intellectual light on the subject of religion, but no spiritual perception. Such an one may have very clear views of the truth and be able to state them distinctly, and to instruct and edify others, but yet be far from that meekness, humility, love, and heavenly-mindedness which mark the Christian;—he has that carnal mind, which is death; but not that spiritual mind, which is life and peace. It is very possible to hold the truth in unrighteousness; and of all characters this is the most awful, for it takes the very weapons that should overthrow sin, and either locks them up, or blunts their edge, or turns them to the maintenance of that which they should destroy.

Bishop Butler makes a reflection which is most awakening and important to all students and teachers, that, 'Going over the theory of virtue in our thoughts, talking well, and drawing fine pictures of it, this is so far from necessarily or certainly conducing to the habit of it, in him who thus employs himself, that it may harden the mind in a contrary course, and form a habit of insensibility to all moral obligations. For from our very faculty of habits, passive impressions by being repeated grow weaker, and thoughts by often passing through the mind are felt less sensibly.' Let us very seriously and constantly watch against this danger, by personally and practically applying to ourselves the truths which we learn or teach. Watch

to resist your studies tempting you to neglect devotion. Reading is a more common snare, and none more dangerous than to think that knowledge is a more desirable attainment than piety—speculative truths than devout and holy feelings. You can neither obtain personal advantage from reading, nor be eminently useful among your fellow Christians, whatever literary acquirements you may obtain, without the spirit of devotion, and that impressive and realizing communion with God, which will give spirituality and unction in all your intercourse with others.

6. A CONTEMPT OF OTHERS IF THEY ARE IGNORANT, is another danger of study; if a man cannot with logical exactness define his sentiments, or does not know languages, or has not read certain books, a learned student will despise him; but, as Bishop Bedell observes, 'Religion is not logic, and he that cannot give a true definition of the soul, is not for that reason without a soul; so he that defines not faith truly, may nevertheless have true faith.' But how little reason is there for contempt, when we remember that besides human industry, divine teaching is absolutely requisite for acquiring saving knowledge; and a man cumbered with the whole load of human learning, may after all be a castaway, and only perish with an aggravated condemnation; while a man with no more knowledge than the publican, or the dying thief, or the converted jailor, may yet be justified and for ever saved. We ought to *honour all men*. Every human being has an immortal soul, which is of more value than all the world. If only a man saves his own soul and thus secures his everlasting welfare, whatever other attainment he fails of,

or is disappointed in, he will in the result be found to be infinitely wiser and happier, than the more petulant and learned worldly man who loses the view. How instructive the history of the rich man Lazarus !

7. Another danger which may be considered this kind is not obvious at first sight, but is of extensive and mischievous consequences, namely OF LEARNING LEADING US TO SPEAK OF RATHER TO THE CAPACITY OF THE LEARNED THAN TO THE CAPACITY OF those whom we have chosen to address, THE MIDDLE AND THE LOWER CLASSES. Nothing is more difficult than for a learned man to speak familiarly, plainly, and perspicuously to the poor, and to bring the great truths of religion, and obviously before them. It requires the utmost stretch of intellect to do this. The following may illustrate these sentiments, Luther and Erasmus had both been preaching at a meeting of Protestants and Luther with remarkable energy and success. After Bucer's sermon he supped with Luther and in the course of conversation commended the course of his guest, but added that he himself was a better preacher. Bucer receiving this remark with his accustomed mildness, assented. Luther spoke seriously and said, ' Do not think that I to boast foolishly, I well know my own deficiencies and that I am unable to deliver such an interesting and learned discourse, as we have this day heard from you, but when I am in the pulpit I consider what my hearers are ; and because the greater part are unlearned and simple people, I preach what I think they can understand. But you take a higher flight which is not understood by our poor people. In

act like a kind mother who gives her craving infant the breast, thus feeding it with her milk as well as she is able, and thinks this better for its nourishment than, if mixed with the sweetest and choicest syrups, and preparations of art.' Luther said on another occasion, 'They are the best preachers for the common people who teach familiarly, in a homely way, popularly, and most simply.'¹

8. **INTELLECTUAL PRIDE** is perhaps the chief danger of study. A man may so pursue even religious studies as to foster the most evil passions of pride, self-exaltation, ambition, love of power, and the like. He may seek to be a great divine rather than a sincere Christian. Dr. Owen speaks most instructively of this temptation, 'A man begins to be in repute for piety, wisdom, learning, or the like: he is spoken of much to that purpose; his heart is tickled to hear of it, and his pride and ambition affected with it. If this man now with all his strength ply the things from whence his repute, and esteem, and glory among men do spring, with a secret eye to have it increased, he is entering into temptations, which if he take not heed, will quickly render him a slave of lust. So it was with Jehu, he perceived that his repute for zeal began to grow abroad and he got honour by it; Jonadab comes in his way, a good and holy man; now, thinks Jehu, I have an opportunity to grow in the honour of my zeal, so he calls Jonadab to him and to work he goes most seriously: the things he did were good in themselves, but he was entered into

¹ See History of the Church of Christ, Vol. vi. and Melchior Adam's Life of Bucer and of Luther.

temptation, and served his lust in all he did. So it is with many scholars, they find themselves esteemed and favoured for their learning, this takes hold of the pride and ambition of their hearts; hence they set themselves to study with all diligence, day and night, a thing good in itself, but they do it that they may satisfy the thoughts and words of men wherein they delight; and so in all they do, they make provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof. 'It is true, God oftentimes brings light out of this darkness, and turns things to a better issue. After, it may be, a man has studied sundry years with an eye upon his lusts; his ambition, pride, and vain glory; rising early, and going to bed late, to give them satisfaction, God comes in with his grace, turns the soul to himself; robs those Egyptian lusts, and so consecrates that to the use of the Tabernacle which was provided for idols.'¹

The first suggestion of Satan was to excite unbelief, and the next was to foster pride. The first lesson in the school of Christ is to trust only in the Lord, and to renounce all our wisdom. *Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not to thine own understanding. Be not wise in thine own eyes.* The wish to set ourselves above all others, is a manifest evidence of our fallen nature.

This intellectual pride infinitely overvalues languages, literature, and human science, underrates our natural darkness, and slights Christ and His Spirit. Philip Henry (himself no contemptible scholar) remarks on Isaiah l. 4. (*The Lord hath given me the*

¹ See his Works, Vol. vii. p. 472.

language of the learned, &c.) 'The true learning; of a Gospel minister consists not in being able to talk Latin fluently; and to dispute in philosophy; but in being able to speak a word in season to weary souls. He that knows how to do that well is a learned minister.'²

How great is the danger of literary pride! It puts God at a distance from us. He *knoweth the proud afar off*. Psalm cxxxviii. 6. He dwells in the lowly bosom. There are some valuable remarks on this subject in a sermon by Bishop Blomfield, a prelate, from his own superior acquirements, well-qualified to give such a testimony. After ably showing that the cultivation of the understanding gratifies the pride of man, from the contemplation of its own strength, discernments, and achievements, and its exultation in discovering the mistakes and failures of others, he observes, 'The pride of human reason thus fostered and flattered, comes at length to rely exclusively on its own energies and resources, doubts and disbelieves every thing which it cannot perfectly comprehend, erects its own standard of moral and religious truth, and suspends from its own shifting and uncertain centre, its balance of right and wrong. To such a case how awfully applicable are the words of St. Paul, *Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth: and if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.*' 1 Cor. viii. 1, 2.

8. MISUSING AND ABUSING TEXTS OF SCRIPTURE is also to be guarded against. There is need of this caution. How often is that text abused, *Charity shall cover the multitude of sins*—(1 Pet. iv. 8.) by applying

² See *Life*, p. 207.

the term sins to our own sins, and not those of our fellow creatures. (See Prov. x. 12.) Thus the text in Micah, *What does the Lord require of thee, but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God*, (with similar texts, such as Eccles. xii. 13, &c.) has been applied to the notion that we can be saved by our own obedience, instead of the true use to show us our duty, and humble us in the sense of our disobedience. Very many instances of this kind might be given. It is a very dangerous thing thus to pervert God's word. Men seldom fall into the sin of literally taking away from or adding sentences to God's word, but they often commit this sin, in spirit, by taking away from or adding to the sense of scripture, and putting their own perverted construction, so as in reality totally to change the word of God. But how awful are the solemn and closing declarations of scripture, *If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book : and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book*. An Author may well tremble at his own responsibility under such a declaration.

9. READING BOOKS WHICH WE ARE WELL SATISFIED ARE ERRONEOUS, out of mere curiosity, is no uncommon danger. To read what is to our own conscience a manifestly erroneous book, unless there be a clear call of duty to do so, such as the necessity we may be under of answering it, for the conviction of those with whom we are connected, who have been misled by it, is the very way to unsettle our own minds and perplex our paths. It is dangerous to try the

strength of the constitution by tampering with poison, and it is yet more dangerous to tamper with error which is spiritual poison. It may be necessary for a clergyman to have books of this kind, for the sake of reference, but there are many books which he may have in his library which it would be very prejudicial for him to be often reading, as it would either generate a controversial spirit, or deteriorate and lower his own tone of religion.¹

10. There is a danger of OVERVALUING, OR UNDULY PRESSING WHAT IS IN ITSELF GOOD. Let not the student fall into that which in medicine would be called *quackery* : or give any one particular truth that prominence, and make it of that distinguished importance as if it alone would heal all our spiritual maladies. It is true that all truth is intimately associated, and if you hold one distinctly, others are implied : it is true that eminent men have been raised up to revive particular truths, and have been honoured in doing so ; but from an overweening conceit of our own wisdom, not regarding that infinite wisdom, which seeing every exigency of the soul, has in the scripture met that exigency with appropriate truth, we may here fall into serious mistake, to the great injury of ourselves and others. This evil is the more serious when our own notions are regarded as this eminent truth. We may think our own views to be so essential to religion, that if men hold these things they are religious, and if they hold them not they are not religious. The remedy of this danger is, first, the scriptural *proportion of faith* ; let

¹ There is an excellent Letter of the Rev. John Newton's on this subject, in his Works, Vol. vi. p. 419—433.

us give things a prominence as the Scriptures do, and omit nothing which the Scriptures reveal as truth: and then, constant prayer for divine help, to keep us from leaning to our own understanding.

11. In addition to general dangers, common to all, each individual has IN HIS PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES SPECIAL TEMPTATIONS. Each age, and each situation of life has these: those of youth are rashness, credulity, presumption, unmeasured statements, &c.—those of age are excessive caution, hesitation, delay, suspicion, and complaining.¹ The rich and great are in danger of haughtiness and dogmatism; and the poor of cringing or speaking evil. Men of brilliant talents, and of lively imagination; men of profound and close thinking, and men of tender and affectionate feelings, have each the respective dangers of their peculiar excellencies: these things may become temptations and affect our reception of the truth, and we should watch and pray against them. Divine grace can give our natural tendencies a happy direction and make us in every station *like a tree that bringeth forth his fruit in his season.*

12. If there be these dangers in *religious* study, there are not fewer DANGERS to the soul in SCIENTIFIC STUDIES. These are in their place important, but if pursued without religious views and feelings, they may lead to serious mischief. Paul was peculiarly neglected and denied at Athens. While in the dark ages we have seen the low state to which religion was reduced without learning: we have also seen, in the last century, on a prodigious scale, the miseries pro-

¹ Some of these dangers are forcibly pointed out in Aristotle's Rhetoric. Book II. chap. xii. &c.

duced by unsanctified science through the continent. Immense talents, without religious control or restraint, became a vast engine for desolating the world; the worst human passions were let loose by men of fine genius, and wit, and science, and in their wild licentiousness every kind of iniquity abounded.

Religion re-acts with a great blessing on science; but how little can science do for man's highest happiness without religion! While it is a great satisfaction to be able to state that the men who have made the greatest advances in science have been steady friends to religion; it cannot be denied that men of science have sometimes been found among the leaders of infidelity. They cannot bear the humbling truths of religion, and are filled with indignation at its holy and strict requirements, and *vainly puffed up by their fleshly mind*, they neither enter themselves, nor willingly allow others to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Some sentiments on this subject, in the sermon already quoted, are truly scriptural, and forcibly impressed;—‘In all ages of the world it has been the way of mankind to bestow far greater pains upon the cultivation of the faculties, the strengthening of the reasoning powers, and the refining of taste, than upon the less pleasing and more arduous task of correcting vicious propensities and habits, purifying the conscience, and fixing in the mind principles of piety and charity.—The cultivation of the understanding gratifies the pride of man, while the discipline of the passions implies its mortification.’ After showing very forcibly the dangers which may follow, from the mere cultivation of the intellect, it is added, ‘Whatever has a manifest tendency to exalt the dignity of the human understanding, to the

disparagement of practical religious knowledge, or to make the one entirely independant of the other, we deprecate and withstand, as inconsistent with that true philosophy, and we may add that genuine philanthropy, whose chief aim and lesson is to cast down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and that the soul may be fit to partake, in his means of grace, and his promises of glory. We are persuaded by experience as well as certified by the word of God, that, as with the truly religious man, every fresh accession of knowledge, of what kind soever, teaches a lesson of humility, and adds to the materials of piety and thankfulness; so with the unbeliever and the profane,—each step which is taken in the paths of science is one step further from God, inasmuch as it ministers to pride and self-sufficiency, and exalts understanding above conscience and the testimony of the Spirit. ’

MEDICAL AND LEGAL STUDENTS, in pursuing their professional studies, are exposed to many temptations, which may materially affect and injure their higher pursuits of religious knowledge. Each profession has had, and still has, eminent and well instructed Christians; but in the course of the lectures which medical men attend, not to speak of materialism, is there not a leaving of God out of His own world, and an introducing of another deity, under the terms nature, and course of nature? It is to be feared that the Christian student will find many of his fellow-students, in both professions, to be professed infidels, and many without any religion! Seductions will be presented on every side, either to give up his religion, or wholly to neglect it. Be aware of such dangers. Be cautious in the choice of your

companions; do not willingly and unnecessarily join yourself to the wicked. Be not easily drawn into argument with those who only want to display their own infidelity. It is our duty to give a solid answer to a real inquirer, for the truth's sake; it is not our duty to attempt to meet every cavil of the captious. Simply confess your Saviour by your testimony and conduct, and your character will in the result be the best evidence of your principles.

It is well to be acquainted with these dangers, that we may watch against them. Humility and the fear of the Lord, a praying spirit and a single eye, will keep a man in the right path. The Lord will watch over those who confide in Him, and His Spirit will guide them unto all truth.

I cannot close this chapter better than in the devout words of Ambrose Serle, from his *Horæ Solitariae*, a work full of fine devotional feeling: 'O thou believer! pray to be emptied more and more of thyself, of thy carnal will, and of all unsanctified knowledge, that thou mayest be filled with Jesus, and with that wisdom which leadeth to the contemplation of God, and to the everlasting enjoyment of him. Neither much nor little human knowledge will hurt thee, if it be thus subordinate in thy soul to that which is divine. Learning is a useful servant, but must never be the master. Let it follow thee to Christ, and not lead thee from him. If thou art rightly taught, thou wilt see the shallowness of all human erudition, and how little that deserves the name of science which mortals are proud to know. Thou wilt learn the most difficult and abstruse subject in the world, which no man ever could learn without divine instruction; even thine own IGNORANCE—a branch of knowledge which men

upright mind. Such a mind readily embraces while on the other hand a proud and worldly man pollutes or rejects it. The ambitious desire an occasion of finding fault with views which they dislike, and God who designs to discriminate men's character by His truth, lets them have occasion of stumbling in abundance, and they stumble perhaps for ever. But the very offences on which they stumble, lead the upright to a more close waiting on God, till they attain truth. As the best food is unpleasant to a disordered stomach, and hurts the health, and the brightest light is painful to weak and diseased eyes, and injures sight, so if our minds be carnal and impure, the pure truths will only offend and irritate our bad passions. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.* Let a man have real sanctification, which, Archbishop Usher says, 'is nothing less than for a man to be brought to an entire resignation of his will to the will of God, and to live in the offering up of his life continually in the flames of love as a whole burnt offering to Christ,' and he has the best preparation for profitable study. We would then recommend every student often to examine his motives for studying, and the state of his mind. ¹

¹ *Questions for Self-Examination, chiefly extracted from a Writer.*

What is my great design in giving myself to study, and what my daily view and purpose in pursuing it?

Have I entirely given up myself to our Lord Jesus Christ, to serve him unreservedly and supremely?

Do I every day seek direction and blessing from God in all my studies?

In labouring after knowledge in human sciences, do I always make the service of Christ my supreme design?

Do I pursue my studies daily as one that must give account of my time and of all my advantages?

2. ESPECIALLY SEEK REAL HUMILITY. Cultivate a humble spirit in all your studies. 'Humility,' one of the Fathers observes, 'is like the violet which grows low on the ground, hangs the head downward, hides itself with its own leaves, and were it not that its fragrance betrays it to the observation of others, would choose to live and die in its own pleasing obscurity.' The highest archangel is the most prostrate before the throne of God, and the nearest approaches to him are marked, as we see in Abraham, Job, Isaiah, and Paul, by the deepest humility. Do not affect to have universal knowledge: it is out of the question for any human being. The range of knowledge is so vast we can but know in part. Do not attempt to fathom things that are inscrutable to mortal eyes: some seem to consider themselves obliged to know and determine all that comes before them; an

How many hours have I this day spent in study, or for the pursuit of knowledge, allowing for the great maxim, that to pray well is to study well?

Do I pursue practical divinity as well as the knowledge of doctrines and controversies?

Am I solicitous that my soul may grow in grace by every increasing degree of Christian knowledge?

Do I choose my company by their seriousness, as well as by their ingenuity and learning?

Do I take constant care to avoid all company which may be dangerous to my morals or to my studies?

Have I been in any company where I have received good myself, or done good to others?

Have I indulged myself in any thing so as to put my mind out of frame for evening worship?

Have I suffered any thing to carry away my heart from God, so as to make me neglect devotion, or perform it in a slight or careless manner?

Do I watch against all evil appetites and passions, and endeavour to subdue them early, that I may learn by my own experience, and teach others by my own example?

Am I ever seeking the spiritual good of all around me?

ingenuous confession of ignorance, where we are ignorant, is true wisdom as well as honesty. The same spirit will lead you not to boast of or display your acquirements, for self-exaltation and vain glory, and to have the mere reputation of learning. All kinds of studies duly improved will promote humility, so that the most wise and learned may be, like the divine Saviour, most truly meek and lowly of heart. The experience of the Christian exceedingly promotes this: once he might think himself wise, and strong, and good, but his innumerable mistakes, and errors, and corruptions, have laid him, when more advanced, in the very dust before God. Humility has been a distinguishing feature in the character of all those who were at the same time eminently pious and learned. Nay, the greatest men in science have ever been the humblest. Sir Isaac Newton, when some one expressed their admiration of his discoveries, replied, ‘Alas! I am only like a child picking up pebbles on the shore of the great ocean of truth.’

3. **DRAW YOUR RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES SIMPLY FROM THE WORD OF GOD.** In reading many books there is great danger of being corrupted from the simplicity of pure religion. Heresies have generally sprung from men of superior talents and unsanctified learning, who would not be in subjection to the plain declarations of scripture. The Apostle gives a rule, *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy.* Let all your sentiments on religious subjects be taken from, and be subject to the Bible, and taken not from a few partially extracted passages, but from an enlarged view of the whole, and a comparison of the different parts of truth one with another. No religious truth is essential, but what is plainly asserted, or may be

easily deduced from the Holy Scriptures. All things, then, that human writers assert, must be proved by this test, and received and rejected as they are conformable or not to the only infallible standard. Bishop Pilkington, in his Exposition on Haggai, published in 1560, says, ‘ Let the world take heed, for *if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the pit.* This miserable common excuse, which is so often in their mouths, shall not excuse them when they say, Thus we are taught—our ghostly fathers say so—and our fathers before us have so believed : Christ says, *ye shall both fall into the pit.* Believe no doctrine that teaches to go to heaven other than by Christ freely ; or which is not written and contained in the Bible, for that only is the perfect word of God, and which only teaches true salvation.’ The old maxim is very true and important. ‘ a good textuary, is a good theologian.’ The ancients possessed not the compass to guide them in their voyages, and could not tell where they were unless they saw the stars ; blessed be God, we have not only the mariners compass within the ship, to guide our course across the deep, but the more important compass of the word of God within the church to guide us in our voyage to heaven. We must keep a constant eye on this compass, if we would sail in a straight course. The reformers (in Edward the Sixth’s Primer) taught the whole nation to pray, ‘ Let me neither follow my own will, nor the fancies of other men, neither let me be beguiled with the masque of old customs, long usages, father’s decrees, ancient laws, nor any thing that fighteth with thy holy ordinances, and blessed commandment, but faithfully believe, and stedfastly confess that to be true godliness which is learned in thy Holy Bible;

and according unto that to order my life unto the praise of thy holy name.'

4. **GAIN THE HABIT OF EARLY RISING.** It is of importance in order to profitable study. Habit will make any reasonable plan easy; and the hours of morning are generally less liable to be disturbed, and therefore more quiet. Early hours, too, are more favourable to health. Early rising will make a vast difference in favour of your acquiring knowledge, and communicating the results of your acquirements to others. Men who have been eminently useful to their fellow-creatures, have generally been early risers. To those in youth and health, we would say, Rise at five o'clock, and never study after ten at night; the knowledge which is gained after that hour will never compensate for the loss of health, which it so often occasions. Let it however be added, that no studies should infringe on the hours of devotion; nor yet on those of necessary exercise.

5. **BE DILIGENT IN STUDIES.** Nothing valuable is attained by the lazy and indolent student, who reads merely for amusement, to pass away time, and without any close application. Solomon says, *I gave my heart to know wisdom.* On which Dr. Barrow remarks, 'He who made it his choice before all things; who so earnestly and happily did pray for it; upon whom it is so expressly said that God in a special manner and plentiful measure did bestow it; who avers God to be the sole Donor of it (for *the Lord says, He giveth wisdom, out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding*) yet even he did first give his heart to it; he did not only gape for it to receive it by mere infusion; but he worked and studied hard for it: he was indeed a great student, an inquisitive

searcher into nature, a curious observer of the world, a profound considerer and comparer of things, and by that industrious course, promoted by the Divine blessing, he arrived at that great stock of so renowned a wisdom.' This diligence will lead you to improve opportunities. Bishop Stillingfleet pursued his studies with great advantage in his walks, with a memorandum book, and his great work, the *Origines Sacrae* is said to have been thus first composed in the fields. Some who have been called to journey much, have been able to read much in journies. It is not so much superior talent and genius, as diligent, and persevering, and constant industry, that makes men advanced students. None, whatever talent they may have had, who have been slothful and indolent, have been extensively useful, and none, with industry rightly applied have failed of attaining, both honour and usefulness. 'Nepotian,' Jerome said, 'by daily reading and meditation, had made his soul a library of Christ; and Blesilla, though she was so far overpowered with weakness and sickness, that her foot would scarce bear her body, yet she was seldom found without a Bible in her hand.'

6. **STUDY REGULARLY AND PERSEVERINGLY.** Some have more the command of time than others; but in general we may say, avoid mere desultory reading, and have a regular plan of study. Keep a list of such books as you mean to read, and excepting in books of reference, go through one, before you begin another. Some have found it useful to divide their studies, and give portions of time in the week to each. At any rate, plan, and pursue a comprehensive course of study. Have a book for every spare hour. *Lose not the odd moments*, but let there be a book,

ready to fill them up. Do not in general skim through books. What is thus lightly read, is of little profit. Good books will be much more useful if patiently read, and well weighed, and considered. But still, different kinds of books require to be read in different ways: Lord Bacon justly remarks, ‘Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts, others to be read, but not cursorily, and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention.’ It has been found useful to mark with a pencil, those passages that most impress your mind, that you may read them again, or refer to them more easily. The habit of study should never be lost. The Rev. Mr. Scott, to the last year of his life, spent many hours every day in his study. If we live only on old stores, we shall never enlarge our knowledge. It is allowed, that it is not easy diligently to pursue a course of persevering study: our families and our daily duties must not be neglected. It requires fixed plans, vigorously followed up. Our natural indolence and the love of society, must be broken through. Cecil says, ‘Every man, whatever be his natural disposition, who would urge his powers to the highest end, must be a man of solitary studies.’

7. REFLECT ON WHAT YOU READ. Meditation and reflection are the better half of study. It is the more difficult, but the more profitable. We like the luxury of letting new thoughts enter our minds, without the trouble of weighing their truth and value. Like the Athenians, we are desiring new things rather than truth. But the way to make thoughts our own, and to attain solid knowledge, and new and original ideas, is to revolve what we read much in our own

minds ; to compare it with similar things ; and thus both ascertain its real value, and profitably apply it to use.—‘ It is not so important,’ says Mrs. More, ‘ to know every thing, as to know the exact value of every thing, to appreciate what we learn, and to arrange what we know.’ Miss Bowdler, with great justice observes, ‘ The best book or the most instructive conversation will afford little pleasure or advantage, by being merely remembered, in comparison with what it might afford, by exciting new reflections in the mind, which lead to a new train of thought, and make the riches of others become in some sort its own.’

Students who are always reading without intermission, and seldom weighing or deliberating, make but little progress in true wisdom. Study and reading, as Locke has observed, are distinct things. A man of great reading is not therefore a man of great knowledge. But patient reflection, and unbroken attention have been the great secrets of acquiring the profound knowledge which distinguished such men as Bacon and Newton. Luther thus expresses his views of the best way to make a Christian divine. ‘ Three things make a Divine ; meditation, prayer, and temptation : and three things must be done by the minister of the word,—search the Bible, pray seriously, and always remain a learner.’

A due reflection on valuable books will be assisted by reperusing them. There are some books that may be read again and again with great advantage : such works as Doddridge’s *Rise and Progress*, Milner’s *Church History*, Scott’s *Essays*, &c. may, especially after certain intervals, be read over again with more profit the second time than the first. Mr. Cecil remarks, ‘ I have long adopted’ an expedient which I have

found of singular service. I have a shelf in my study for tried authors, and one in my mind for tried principles and characters. When an Author has stood a thorough examination, and will bear to be taken as a guide, I put him on the shelf.' The reperusal of such tried authors once a year, or once in two or three years, will be found highly profitable.

8. CONVERSE WITH OTHERS ON THE SUBJECTS WHICH YOU STUDY. Even if you only tell them what you have learnt, the very communication will confirm and enlarge your own ideas ; but it is surprising how much the intercourse of congenial minds, and the interchange of sentiments enlarges and expands our knowledge. Peter Martyr said of Bucer, that ' he never left his table without being more learned.' Another says, ' mere reading makes a pedant, conversation unfolds, enlarges, and applies the use of books.' There are few things more eminently advantageous than free intercourse with aged and intelligent Christians, or with pious fellow-students. How frequently is time miserably lost when friends assemble together merely to pass it away in such casual conversation as may happen to arise, or any thing that may divert or amuse, without reference to knowledge or edification ! Matt. xii. 36. How invaluable would this time be if rightly improved in the wise discussion of edifying truths with the spirit of Christian love, and with the desire of glorifying the Saviour. The student should have practical and profitable questions to ask experienced Christians, and all should be ready and glad to give information to others, a gift which will be returned with profit, for we acquire by communicating. But while we obtain benefits from conversation with intelligent Christians, too great, even

A religious acquaintance, wastes precious time, fills the mind with self conceit, and draws it off from deep study.

9. **STUDY TRUTH IN ITS USE**, rather than in its logical abstract statement. Here the pious and humble mind has its pre-eminent advantage over that of the mere reasoner. Believing the truth simply as it lies in the Scripture, the lowly and practical Christian views it in its daily application; a promise fills him with hope, a threatening excites him to caution, and a direction leads him to holy practice; while the mere scholar is spending all his time in looking at its possible meaning, its imaginary bearings, and the defence of his own sentiments. Remember that practice is a most important help to scriptural knowledge. Personal religion, and a deep experience of the power of the gospel, and real devotion, will lead to solid conclusions, while a neglect of these will leave you open to all sorts of error. 'Studious pursuits,' it has been observed 'from the great hold which they take of the mind, as well as from the importance which we properly attach to them, may produce a habit of thinking when we are called upon to act.' Obedience and submission to the Divine Will, even though they may interfere with our studies, promote, as we have shown, that state of mind which is most favourable to the acquisition of saving knowledge. Hence many, who are very unlearned as it regards human literature, are deeply acquainted with the divine word.¹ But

¹ It has been well remarked, 'Were a man able to write in seven languages; could he converse daily with the sweets of all the liberal sciences, that polite men ordinarily pretend unto; did he

if both learning and a holy life cannot be obtained we can have no doubt which to choose, seeing holiness is essential to our everlasting felicity. Thomas a Kempis presses the same sentiments. 'Because men are more solicitous to learn much than live well, they fall into error, and receive little benefit from their studies. In the approaching day of universal judgment it will not be inquired what we have read, but what we have done, not how eloquently we have spoken, but how holily we have lived. He truly learned who has learned to abandon his own will, and do the will of God.'

The scripture statement is, *If ye know these things happy are ye if ye do them.* This is especially important to ministers. The caution with which Henry Martyn charged himself, should not be forgotten 'May I be taught to remember, that all other studies are merely subservient to the great work of ministering holy things to immortal souls. May the most holy works of the ministry, and those which require most devotedness of soul, be the most dear to my heart

entertain himself with all the ancient and modern histories; as could he feast continually on the curiosities which all sorts of learning may bring unto him; none of all this will afford him ravishing satisfaction, much less would any grosser delights of the senses do it, which he might find in relieving the distresses of a poor, mean, miserable neighbour, and which he might much more find in doing any extensive service for the kingdom of our great Saviour in the world, or any thing to redress the miseries upon which mankind is generally languishing.' See Cotton Mather Student and Pastor. It was a weighty saying of Archbishop Williams, 'I have passed through many places of honour and trust, both in church and state, more than any of my order in England for seventy years before. But were I assured that my preaching I had but converted one soul to God, I should here take more comfort than in all the honours and offices that have ever been bestowed upon me.' See Fuller's Church History.

the practice of ministerial duties will materially call forth and aid the powers of a minister. For instance, in explaining the scriptures to his family, or among his cottagers in their dwellings, he will often find his own heart deeply affected and impressed with the enlarged and fresh views of divine truth, which God will give him, while he is doing his work.

10. WATCH AGAINST THE DANGERS OF STUDY.

Some of the principal have already been pointed out. (See the last chapter.) A student is tempted on the one hand, to an indolent listless way of study, or to study by fits and starts, without regularity or perseverance. Or, he is seduced on the other, to neglect prior and plain duties, by an excessive love to his studies, or perhaps to pursue them to the injury of his health. There is a danger of letting lighter studies divert our minds from severer studies. The mind should be disciplined and inured to that reading which makes a strong demand on its patient attention. A man may get a passion for a complete library; a thing unattainable; for the largest libraries in the world are still destitute of rare and valuable books. One of the greatest dangers of a large library, is its tendency to induce a neglect of the Holy Scriptures, in their unaccompanied and daily study. Besides the mass of mankind have not much time for study; a few books, well selected and well digested, make the wise man. Men who read most, are not therefore the wisest. Men who read the best books, and make them their own by meditation and experience, are truly wise. Is there not too much indiscriminate reading, and too little meditation and experience? Shun, as a plague, all works tending to excite sensual thoughts, or to defile the mind; they leave a polluting stain within, that

will not easily be got rid off; they weaken the power of resistance against temptation; they often lead to total and final ruin. It is an honour to a Christian, not to be in any way acquainted with such writings as common report, or the first glance, will discover to be pernicious. Let not the corruptions of heathen classics give you their turn of mind, their sensuality, pride, and vain glory. By nothing, except it be by sense, does Satan reign more than by pride of intellect. The Christian must cleanse himself from both (2 Cor. vii. 1). These dangers are obvious; but there are others equally to be guarded against. Remember, that no mere knowledge will save your soul. You may know all mysteries; but, if you want charity, you will perish, notwithstanding such knowledge. Beware also of a mere scientific, controversial, or philosophical study of religion. It is an important criterion given to us by the excellent Bernard, 'In reading books, let us not look so much for science as the feeling of truth in the heart.' Dr. Buchanan, complaining of himself at College, as attending too much to science, says, 'I drink of the Cam and sip of Zion, whereas I ought to sip of the Cam and drink deep of Zion.' Many may make the complaint with more justice than he did. Beware again of despising others. We see this in that tone of cutting irony and sarcasm, joke and levity, which is the temptation of peculiar and often powerful minds, who feel their superiority over others, and thus display it, wounding them without mercy. God will not honour such methods. We must speak the truth in meekness and love.

Mere study without God's blessing, sought in prayer, and expected in faith, tends to foster evil

passions, instead of suggesting valuable and holy thoughts, and nourishing holy desires.

11. IMPROVE THOSE GENERAL AND OTHER MEANS WHICH GOD PRESENTS, besides that of mere books, and which are very helpful to the attainment of divine truth. Herbert, in a chapter entitled the Parson's Library, tells us, that 'his library is a holy life.' An insight into our own heart, and an actual practice of all holy duties, are essential to our right knowledge of divine truths, and the effective preaching of them to others. John Smith, in his Select Sermons says, 'To seek our divinity merely in books and writings, is to seek the living among the dead. We do but in vain seek God many times in these where his truth too often is not so much enshrined as entombed.' Mr. Newton, in his Letters, speaking of a plan for a compendious library, recommends four comprehensive volumes, the Bible, the book of Creation, the book of Providence, and the book of the Heart. His remarks on these subjects, are well worth reading. In fact, their own family and connexions, their neighbourhood, and the state of the Church, and of the world, when duly regarded according to the light which the Scriptures throw upon them, furnish private Christians with a striking Commentary on that holy book, and Christian ministers with the best ground work for their public instruction. It was said of Dr. Watts, 'Whatever he took in hand was by his incessant solicitude for souls converted into theology.'

The works of God also will furnish us with innumerable illustrations of the word of God; the vegetable, the animal, and the mineral kingdoms, may supply us with a profitable, as well as an interesting help to religious study. Bernard says, 'There is sometimes'

more to be found in woods than there is in books. Trees and stones will teach thee that which is not to be learned from other masters.' *The heavens, too, declare the glory of God*, and all creation speaks his praise. But let us beware of resting in the mere study of outward things. Lord Bacon quotes a striking sentiment from a platonist as to the danger arising from our senses—'The sense of man carries a resemblance with the sun, which as we see opens and reveals all the terrestrial globe: but then it again obscures, and conceals the stars and celestial globe, so does the sense discover natural things, but it shuts up divine.'

The sorrows and afflictions of life are another school in which much is learned. 'Where there is much of the cross there is much light; where there is little of the cross there is much darkness and much folly.' Afflictions make an experienced divine.

Rollock, one of the Scotch Reformers, testified, 'I am not ashamed to profess that I never reached to so high a pitch in the knowledge of God as I have attained in this sickness.'¹ Rivet, a French Protestant, on his dying bed asserted, 'In the space of ten days since I kept my bed I have learned more and made greater progress in divinity than in the whole course of my life before.' Sickness brings us near death and eternity, dispels the glare of the world, and thus prepares us to receive in their just importance those revealed truths which we before but dimly discerned, or carelessly and with indifference regarded.

But especially, let us study the Saviour. The best

¹ See *Adami Vita*.

result of scriptural knowledge is to know Christ. It is most beneficial to ourselves, and most useful to others. Every part of our studies should have some connexion with Him. He is **THE TRUTH**, the sum and substance of all truth. If we know Christ, in the experience of His grace, and by the light of His word, and the teaching of His spirit, we have the key of the mysteries of God's word.

How important to bear in mind that the true way to spiritual light is to follow Christ; (John viii. 12.) and that no learning, research, diligence, or acuteness, can avail, where this is neglected.

What a blessed world would this be, if in all Christians Christ was formed the hope of glory—if we could discern the image of Christ in all and every one around us! Franck says, 'O blessed contemplation! Would to God we might thus with a sedate mind, behold Christ in all others, and that we ourselves may be found a clear and lucid mirror of Him.'¹

12. Lastly, **EVER REMEMBER THAT GOD IS THE FATHER OF LIGHTS** and the fountain of wisdom. When we lose sight of Him, it is not surprising that we wander into darkness and error. We should begin our reading, lifting up our hearts to Him for His blessing, and praying that He will both keep us from all error and guide into all truth. *Bene precasse est bene studuisse.* To have prayed well, is to have studied well. The importance of pursuing all our studies in the spirit of prayer is very great. We may otherwise be led into errors, puffed up with conceit, fancy that knowledge is all, despise our brethren, and fall

¹ See Franck's Sum. p. 259.

into ten thousand evils. It is incredible what mischief has been done by unsanctified learning. The only remedy for this is much prayer for the enlightening, purifying, and humbling work of the Spirit in our hearts. Bishop Sanderson well remarks, (in a Sermon on 1 Cor. xii. 1) ‘It was Simon Magus’ error to think that the gifts of God might be purchased with money ; and it has a spice of his sin, and so may go for a kind of simony to think that spiritual gifts may be purchased with labour. You may rise up early and go to bed late, and study hard, and read much, and devour the marrow of the best authors ; and when you have done all, unless God give a blessing to your endeavours, be as lean and meagre, in regard of true and useful learning, as Pharaoh’s lean kine were, after they had eaten the fat ones. It is God that both ministereth seed to the sower, and multiplieth the seed sown ; the principal and the increase are both his. If then we expect any gift or the increase of any gift from Him ; neither of which we can have without him, let us not be behind either, with our best endeavours to use the means he has appointed, or with our faithful prayers to crave His blessing on those means.’ He says also, ‘Prayer without study is presumption, and study without prayer atheism.’

Luther declares, that ‘he profited more in the knowledge of the Scriptures in a short time by private prayer, than by a long course of application without it.’ Remember, then, the unspeakable importance of fervent and daily prayer for the divine blessing on all your studies. Have a firm conviction that God alone can make you a wise and understanding Christian, or an *able minister of the New Covenant*. We

are not sufficient, with all our studies, plans, and efforts, of ourselves to attain true wisdom, or to make ourselves efficient instruments of His glory. Let us cherish a deep sense therefore of our own incapacity, and daily look to Him alone for divine teaching. He teacheth to profit. It was the pious Hervey's remark, towards the end of his life, 'Were I to enjoy Hezekiah's grant, and have fifteen years added to my days, I would be much more frequent in my supplications to a throne of grace. We sustain a mighty loss by reading so much, and praying so little.'

The end of all just study is divine illumination to our own everlasting welfare, and that of our fellow-creatures. It was the prayer of the apostle for his beloved Ephesian converts, that *the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.* This is the highest result of all learning. If our studies do not lead us to know Christ; do not increase in us that knowledge, and do not help us in our efforts to make Him known to others, a day will come, when they will all be found worse than vain and unprofitable: *but every man that hath heard and learned of the Father cometh to Christ.* All-important then is prayer. An hour's prayer may do more for the illumination of our mind than years of study. Every part of our studies should be, then, intermingled with ejaculatory prayer; first, for right knowledge, and then for its right use.

Whatever we may have said of the value of human learning, may all be subordinate to this learning. *May the great aim of the Writer of these pages, and*

of every reader, be to attain that knowledge, makes the possessor himself wise, and fills him with zeal to make all others also, WISE UNTO SALVATION

CHAPTER X.

ADVICE TO A STUDENT ON ENTERING THE UNIVERSITY.

THERE is a large and important class of the community whose case, perhaps, has not been sufficiently attended to : I mean, that of young persons, destined for the most part to fill offices of trust in the church or state, and particularly at the commencement of their under-graduateship in the University.

Whether we contemplate the tide poured in every year, from our public schools, or the influx into private seminaries,—the critical period itself of human life, or the consequences pending upon the issue, it must be acknowledged, that of all classes, this presents a stronger claim to our consideration ; more loudly calls for that Christian counsel, which is the aim of the present chapter to administer.

While in fairness it is conceded, that the University affords many advantages for the acquirement of knowledge ; for expanding and invigorating intellectual powers, and fixing habits of application and thinking, which, through life, give added solidity, and a tone to the character ; it cannot be denied, that in no situation is youth more critically placed ; in none has temptation a more attractive

or is Christian principle exposed to a severer struggle. May the young be prepared for the conflict; may temptation be disarmed of its power, by an exposure of the snares of the tempter!

In offering some hints with this view, and by regard to which the young may maintain the post of fidelity, preserve the line of consistency, and avail themselves of the facilities for intellectual, with the least possible risk to their spiritual advancement;—the Writer gladly adopts the assumption, that his remarks are chiefly intended for, and addressed to *Christian Students*.

The character presented to his mind is that of one whose conviction is on the side of religious principle; but in whose case that principle has not yet been submitted to the test of any peculiar trial. It is assumed, that he has been *brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*; and *from a child has known the Holy Scriptures*. And now the period has arrived, when removed from the vigilant eye and superintendence which controlled and guarded his minority, he is about to be launched into a sea, where his feeble bark will be assailed with fiercer storms. Though a youth of this description cannot be altogether ignorant of those difficulties and temptations to which Christians are more or less liable in all places, and under all circumstances; yet, may not some particular cautions, the fruit, partly of experience; partly of a kind interest in his welfare, be furnished, which the Christian Student may have always at hand; to which he may have recourse in the very moment of attack.

Religion, indeed, as a transaction between God and the soul—as the foundation of acquaintance and re-

conciliation—union and converse with the Father of Spirits, is pre-eminently of divine, not human origin. Yet, since all who themselves partake of the benefit, and possess authority and influence, are laid under a solemn obligation to impart to others the means of its attainment, it is deeply to be lamented, that in any plan, or in any system of instruction, and especially where the education of the young is conducted upon so large a scale, religion itself should ever be regarded as a business rather secondary and subordinate, than primary and principal.

In the present enlightened day a conviction of this deficiency seems to be more and more sensibly felt; and, while learning in general need suffer no depreciation, to theological study, it may be hoped, a prominence will be assigned. Within the period of the Writer's recollection there has been a considerable and a progressive change for the better, the earnest, perhaps, of one still more marked and decisive.

At present, however, there is reason to apprehend, that, exclusive of a required and stated attendance upon external observances, the religious advance of the Student in the University, under the divine blessing, must, after all, chiefly depend upon his own individual care and culture.

These observations will not improperly introduce the following cautions, which the Writer doubts not will be received in the same spirit of candour with which they are offered.

1. CULTIVATE THE HABIT OF PERSONAL RELIGION. Far be it from the Author to impede or interrupt a conscientious and diligent attention to the usual routine of academical study. He has known instances much to the dishonour of religion, and little

for the real benefit of its professed advocates, when the paramount claims of religion have been alleged by the student, as a plea for dispensing with the industrious pursuits of merely literary objects. The circumstances ought to be peculiar indeed which would excuse, and much more would justify, such a deviation : it is one not ill-adapted to uphold the mischievous notion of the incompatibility of learning with piety, or the uselessness of learning to the pious.

If to a Christian student, deeply impressed with a sense of his obligation to consecrate all he is and all he has to his God and Saviour, it should at any time appear hard to employ much time and bestow much pains upon points indirectly, if at all, in their present operation connected with religion ; let him reflect, that in every station there are others similarly situated, and that it would be quite as unreasonable for a scholar in the University, upon this plea, to cast off what belongs to the duty of his station there, as for the husbandman or mechanic, from the like cause, to neglect or renounce their usual occupations.

The cultivation of devotional feeling depends more upon the spirit in which any study is taken up, and the manner in which it is pursued, than upon the study itself.

In cultivating the habit of personal religion, let the student **SCRUPULOUSLY REGARD ALL ITS MORE RETIRED DUTIES.** In every situation, but especially in the University, this will be indispensable. By this alone the Christian student will be able to un-secularize himself before the work of the day begins, and after it closes. Thus he will keep alive and warm in his breast the flame of devotion, and supply the want of domestic instruction.

By daily self-examination, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, by daily searching and meditating upon the scriptures, and by a devout recollection of pious absent friends, the principle of spiritual life will be kept from languishing.

In cultivating personal religion, let the student **JEALOUSLY RESERVE THE SABBATH FOR ITS APPROPRIATE AND ALL-IMPORTANT AVOCATIONS.** He who wishes his academical career to be marked with consistent propriety must habitually act upon the resolution, formed and renewed in the strength of divine grace, to employ all the hours of every Sunday according to the design of that sacred institution. With the duties of the Lord's day, none of his ordinary pursuits or studies must be allowed to clash. He must no more permit himself on that day to pursue his secular attainments, than other men in ordinary stations may indulge the like freedom. Never let him plead for that in his own case, which in theirs he would instantly condemn. From this remembrance and reserve of the sabbath, he may anticipate the happiest result through each successive week, both as it respects his own peace of mind, and his progress in religion. Nor will his regard to the sanctity of the sabbath want a blessing from on high, upon all his other plans and week-day employments. Let the Christian student have it ever imprinted on his mind that God Himself is the *fountain of all wisdom*, intellectual and spiritual; and that in Christ, the Master whom he acknowledges, and at whose feet he sits, *are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.* Let him honour God, and he shall enjoy the benefit of the promise, *Them that honour me, I will honour.*

To fix and strengthen his habit of personal religion, let the student CONDUCT HIS SECULAR STUDIES UPON CHRISTIAN MOTIVES, AND FOR A RELIGIOUS END. The law here is as unbending as it is universal, *Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.* A rule, in this world's estimation, impracticable, perhaps unintelligible; but to the Christian not more imperative than pleasant. It is as much his privilege as his interest to *acknowledge God in all his ways*, and in all he does still to tend towards Him, as the centre round which he always revolves.

The intellectual powers are improved and strengthened by exercise, and those powers, in their highest state of cultivation, the Christian student lays under contribution, and consecrates to the service of the sanctuary. From their religious application and use, even studies unconnected with religion derive a measure of sanctity. As in common life, the Christian master rules and the servant obeys, as the fellow-servants of Christ; so it is the duty, and will be the wisdom, of every Christian student still to have an eye to and a recollection of his Master in heaven. *That piety* he will find to be most practical which keeps freshest upon his mind and most habitually in his thoughts the sense of a present God, which invites him to carry every difficulty, of whatever kind, to a throne of grace, there to cast all his care, and there in every thing to make known his requests.

Besides the care to cultivate a devotional habit, let the student, on entering the University,

2. OBSERVE A SPECIAL CAUTION IN THE CHOICE AND SELECTION OF FRIENDS. The circumstances in which so great a number of young persons are collected together, in commencing at the University, are

in this view peculiarly ensnaring. Deprived of a society to which they have been accustomed, there is a mutual, and almost resistless attraction, by which those who now find themselves bound upon the same voyage, and embarking at the same port, are drawn into contact. Yet, alas ! of this attraction how many are the hapless victims ! Insensibly they are urged along with the many ; and the event proves not merely injurious to their religious progress, but fatal to their religion.

Before he makes an equivocal choice, let the student seriously reflect how much easier it is, *not to form* than to *break* an acquaintance ; not to yield to the violent but momentary impulse than, having yielded, to retract. Among the means to avoid improper associations, none will be found more effectual or simple than a manly but modest avowal, in the outset, of determination to religion. ‘Show your colours,’ was the brief advice of an experienced friend to one just approaching the scene of conflict.

It will be wise to evince early an inflexible purpose of maintaining the character of a Christian student. To observe the regulations prescribed by those in authority ; to conciliate their esteem, and win their confidence, by a respectful deference and prompt obedience ; may be regarded by the heedless and unthoughtful, as a heavy tax upon the freedom, the independence, and spirit of youth : yet such is the very course which the highest wisdom dictates, to which conscience bears its strongest testimony, and which experience always proves to be the safest. None are so harassed in the University as the vacillating and unresolved in religion ; none endure so many taunts ; none are so frequently assailed, nor so much in danger

f falling by temptation. It is not meant that the firm and faithful profession of religion will exempt a student from its peculiar trials; but that, in proportion as the separation which it exacts is more complete, the severity of these trials will either be abated or lessened. His measure of consolation will bear a just ratio to the strength of his resolution. *My son, if sinners persecute thee, consent thou not.* If there is ever a period when the inspired admonition should come with all its force, like a voice from heaven, it is when it falls upon the ear of a Christian student, breathing an infectious atmosphere, and within the precincts of temptation. *Be ye not a companion of all them that fear God and keep his precepts.* If ever there is a time when he will derive benefit from his congeniality with this sentiment, it is now. *Depart from me ye evil doers: I will keep the commandments of my God.* As he values all that he ought to hold precious, thus let him express with his abhorrence and his determination.

Happily through the vast increase of religious feeling and knowledge every where, the choice here forced and recommended, has become much more practicable. As an auxiliary to support, or a counsellor to advise; as a sharer of his converse in his leisure, or a witness of his confidence in his retirements; such a coadjutor to all his designs to serve God will at once double the student's joys and divide his griefs.

Nor even, when some ties which cannot be severed, may happen to connect him with others whose minds are not cast into the same mould, must he be negligent to watch the favourable moment of opportunity. Religion is in its own nature diffusive as the light, and the consistent uniform walk of the Christian is an engine of immense power, which seldom fails gradually

to produce some corresponding and assimilating result. Religion in its genuine features is too lovely, not to engage the notice, and in some degree command the admiration of all its beholders; and if you add to the force of example, the Christian's efforts and prayers, his invincible patience and steady perseverance, his discretion and prudence, his brotherly kindness and charity; what is there which may not be anticipated? The sphere of usefulness in the University must necessarily be contracted; but the extent of that usefulness must not be measured by the smallness of the sphere. Supposing a Christian student to have enjoyed the invaluable blessing of a truly Christian father or preceptor, this might be alleged as a good general rule—'Admit not as an intimate one whom you could not introduce to that father or preceptor with pleasure and propriety, as *your friend*.' Much might be obviously added upon temptations of other kinds, to which in the University, and amidst so large and mixed an assemblage of the young, the student must inevitably be exposed. But in what has already been advanced he has the antidote. Of the grosser sins of infidelity or profaneness, intemperance or sensuality, the writer would say to those upon whom he has obtruded himself as an adviser—*Let not these things be once named among you. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather, whenever the just occasion calls for it, reprove them.*

There is, however, yet one caution which may with advantage be pressed upon the Christian student, in entering the University, and this respects—

3. THE INFLUENCE WHICH A CIRCUMSPECT OR CARELESS CONDUCT THERE, WILL NECESSARILY

HAVE UPON THE WHOLE FUTURE LIFE. Many, alas! who have trifled away the season of opportunity, and forfeited their claim to respect and notice in the University, afterwards have sunk into hopeless neglect, and too late bewailed and smarted for that error. On the contrary, it rarely happens, that those who have conducted themselves conformably to the character of Christian students, have failed to overcome, or outlive, whatever opposition their fidelity at first exposed them to : and to conciliate the favour and regard of those whose friendship has reflected honour upon their after life. In fine, they have usually passed into the world with an 'imprimatur,' which has given credit and currency to their undertakings ; and a bright colouring to all their future prospects.

The question is not one of commanding talents or extraordinary acquirements, but of the responsible cultivation of those talents, and the conscientious use of those means which the individual may happen to possess. *It is accepted according to what a man has.* Nor will God leave His servants destitute of such gifts, as will qualify them for the duties assigned to them in His providence, nor yet of grace, to use these gifts to His honour and glory.

If nothing is hinted upon the subject of recreations; it is because that subject has nothing in it exclusively applicable to the Christian student. Perhaps, however, it may not be irrelevant to add, that no one should restrict himself in the enjoyment of such abstraction from graver studies ; and such a portion of daily exercise, as he will find to be essential to the care and preservation of his health.

The Christian student's best armour of defence

against the paralyzing effect of occasional failures in the objects of his literary grasp, will be the religious principles and motives upon which he professes to act. *These* will bind him to perseverance and steadfastness in the path of duty, whether in it he reaps the fruit of success, or is pierced by the thorns of disappointment. *These* will be his ballast, against the rashness of prosperity, and a sweet alleviation to the bitterness in his cup of adversity. As a Christian student he is answerable, not for success, but for the becoming and Christian allotment and improvement of his time and opportunities.

Remembering then, from whom alone can be derived

‘ His strength to suffer, and his will to serve,’

let him forcibly and repeatedly press home upon his heart, the truths here concentrated as it were in one focus, for his benefit ; though few, not on that account the less weighty, nor the less worthy of his perusal and regard.

In his care to maintain the habit of personal religion he will secure the truest personal enjoyment. In a judicious selection of friends he will best promote his social comfort ; and in contemplating the bearing which the present will have upon all the future, he will have, perhaps, the strongest merely human motive, to observe such a course of conduct as will cast upon that future, brightness and not obscurity ; and furnish materials for pleasing, not painful retrospection.

Christian Student ! think on these things, and the *God of love and peace* be with thee !

A Prayer made and used by the Lord Chancellor Bacon, with which the Christian student may occasionally excite or refresh his own, and the devotion of others :

O **ETERNAL** God, and most merciful Father in Christ Jesus, in whom Thou hast made a covenant of grace and mercy with all those that come to Thee in Him : in His name and mediation we humbly prostrate ourselves before the throne of Thy mercy seat, acknowledging that by the breach of all Thy holy laws and commandments, we are become wild olive branches—strangers to thy covenant of grace; we have defaced in ourselves Thy sacred image imprinted in us by creation; we have sinned against heaven and before thee, and are no more worthy to be called Thy children. O admit us into the place even of hired servants. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, for Thy dear Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life : in Him, O Lord, we appeal from Thy justice to Thy mercy, beseeching Thee in His name, and for His sake only, Thou wilt be graciously pleased freely to pardon and forgive all our sins, and disobedience, whether in thought, word, or deed, committed against Thy Divine Majesty, and for His precious blood-shedding, death, and perfect obedience, free us from the guilt, the stain, the punishment, and dominion of all our sins, and clothe us with His perfect righteousness. Turn our hearts, O Lord, and we shall be turned; convert us, and we shall be converted. Illuminate the eyes of our minds and understandings with the bright beams of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may daily grow in the saving knowledge of the heavenly mystery of our redemption : sanctify our wills and affections by the same Spirit, the fountain of all grace and goodness; reduce them to the obedience of Thy most holy will, in the practice of all piety toward Thee, and charity towards all men.

Inflame our hearts with Thy love; cast forth of them what displeases Thee; all infidelity, hardness of heart, profaneness, hypocrisy, contempt of Thy holy word and ordinances; all uncleanness, and whatsoever advances itself in opposition to Thy holy will. And grant, that henceforth, through Thy grace we may be enabled to lead a godly, holy, sober, and Christian life, in true sincerity and uprightness of heart before Thee. To this end, plant

Thy holy fear in our hearts ; grant that it may never depart from before our eyes, but continually guide our feet in Thy path. Increase our weak faith, that it may bring forth the fruit of unfeigned repentance. By the power of the death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, may we daily die unto sin ; and by the power of His resurrection be daily quickened and raised up to newness of life ; may we be truly born anew, and be effectually made partakers of the first resurrection, so that the second death may never have dominion over us.

Teach us, O Lord, so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Make us ever mindful of our last end, and continually to exercise the knowledge of grace in our hearts, that, finally, we may be translated hence to that kingdom of glory prepared for all those that love and that trust in Thee ; then and ever let Thy holy angels pitch their tents around us, and guard and defend us from the malice of Satan, and from all perils both of soul and body.

Pardon all our unthankfulness : make us daily more and more thankful for all Thy mercies and benefits poured down upon us. Let these our humble prayers ascend to the throne of grace, and be granted, not only for these mercies, but for whatsoever else Thy wisdom knows needful for us, and for all those that are in need, misery, and distress, whom Thou, O Lord, hast afflicted in mind, body, or estate. Grant them patience and perseverance in the end, and to the end. And this, O Lord, not for any merits of ours, but for the merits of Thy Son, and our Almighty Saviour Christ Jesus, to whom, with Thee, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed all glory for ever. Amen.

Lord Bacon also wrote another prayer as follows ; he entitled it

THE STUDENTS PRAYER.

To God the Father, God the Word, God the Spirit, we pour forth most humble and hearty supplications, that He remembering the calamities of mankind and the pilgrimage of this our life in which we wear out days few and evil, would please to open to us new refreshments out of the fountains of His goodness for the alleviating of our miseries. This also we humbly and earnestly beg, that human things may not prejudice such as are divine ; neither that

the unlocking of the gates of sense, and the kindling of a natural light, any thing of incredulity or intellectual night rise in our minds towards divine mysteries. But rather that our mind thoroughly cleansed and purged from fancy and passion, and yet subject, and perfectly given up to the Divine Spirit, there may be given up unto faith, the things that are written. Amen.

CHAPTER XI.

OUTLINES OF THE HISTORY OF DIVINITY.

There has in every age raised up men who have furnished the Church with needful and valuable works, and though some of these have perished, and many are now comparatively useless, yet the writings of some authors almost every age survive, and may be advantageously studied by the Christian student.

And the almost boundless ranges of theology, without entering into minute details, some outline or lead towards an Epitome of the history of divinity, at regular periods, and in successive ages of the Church, can scarcely fail to be useful.¹

For the history of Divinity on a fuller scale, Dupin's *Bibliotheca*, *Historia Literaria*, Walchius' *Bibliotheca*, and other more works may be consulted. For the history of the true Church, see Milner's *History* continued by Scott, and Weismann's *Historia* in *Memorabilia Ecclesiastica Historiæ Sacræ*. The difficulties of giving a full history of Divinity are obvious, and to the wholly insurmountable. It requires, in order to its perfect accomplishment, an extent of reading, a soundness of judgment, a depth of experience, to an approach to which he makes no pretensions. All that he ventures upon is to offer such remarks as

At the very entrance, he would intreat the reader to remember that all the works of men are full of imperfection : that no human being can take a complete view of the whole subject ; that every judgment of man must be in some degree defective, and that till the great day when God will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of the heart, no history but that which is inspired, can be without error in some things, and obscurity in others.

It is necessary also to bear in mind, that the too general spirit of party among Christians is most prejudicial to such a design ; especially as it renders it so much the more difficult to decide between opposing writers, and disposes unduly to magnify favourite authors. How painfully in the course of our studies, have we seen in the writers on both sides of a controverted point, that reproach exemplified, *ye bite and devour one another !* How needful to watch against our own spirit ! Alas ! in contending for doctrines, how often do we fail of the professed end of those doctrines, love, kindness, holiness, and humility ; and while contending, lose sight of the only scriptural spring of those works, and of the very spirit of those works for which we contend. Each age

his own studies have furnished or occasioned, in the hope of being serviceable to others even less experienced than himself. And he would submit these remarks with unfeigned humility and deference to those of superior ability, and to whom indeed he continually feels his own inferiority. He is pressed by the difficulty of giving an opinion in any way unfavourable of authors, from whom he has been glad to learn. He does not pretend to give a complete view of the subject. It would require far more time than he can afford, far more knowledge than he has acquired, far more wisdom, and judgment, and piety, than he possesses. Yet his mite, such as it is, he is unwilling to withhold from the treasury of God.

has been ready to think that it has the exact truth, and every denomination of Christians that its views are in every point defensible and scriptural.

We have shown that the Holy Scriptures are the only standard of Divine Truth; it will be of little profit therefore, to seek that truth in those writers, whether of Greece or Rome, who had not the full benefit of the Sacred Volume. The works of Cicero, on the nature of the gods, shows how little light can be derived from the result of the labours of all preceding philosophers, even when brought before us by such a writer in such a late age of the heathen world. In this respect that work is a valuable testimony for the Christian student. Though classical literature is a subject out of our province, it may be remarked, that the delightful use made by Leighton and other spiritual minds, of their classical attainments, shows that such attainments give to a holy and diligent mind advantages for enriching and adorning the statements of divine truth. But Usher advises young divines 'not to spend too much time in heathen moral philosophers, for they were much mistaken in many great points of morality and true happiness.' The Holy Scriptures being our standard both as to principles and practice, and the measure and spirit in which they are to be declared, it will be obvious, that those writers who come nearest to them in these respects, are the most valuable. May He who bestows the gift of discerning things that differ, and approving those which are most excellent, enable the Author and his reader to find and follow the more excellent way!

It will be necessary to divide the subject under different heads, or classes of writers. We propose to consider therefore, in distinct sections, the Fathers, the

Schoolmen, the Reformers, their Successors, the Conformists, the Divines at the Restoration and Revolution, and those of Modern Times.

SECTION I.

THE FATHERS.

The title of Fathers is variously extended or limited and is made to include by some, only writers to the fourth or fifth century, and by others, writers to the twelfth or thirteenth. We would here take the largest acceptation.

We have but few remains of the first ages of the church; as it has been beautifully remarked, 'to believe, to suffer, to love,—not to write, was the primitive taste.' Yet those remains which we are too valuable to be neglected. Milner, one competent to judge, observes 'Ecclesiastical antiquity has been too much depreciated in our times, students in divinity have been discouraged from study of the Fathers. In truth, a selection of them ought to be made: to praise or dispraise the principal writers in general, is obviously absurd.'¹

¹ Archbishop Usher's advice to young students was, 'to spend too much time in Epitomes, but to set themselves to the ancient authors themselves: to begin with the Fathers, to read them according to the ages in which they lived (which was the method he had taken himself), and, together with them, fully to peruse the Church historians that treated of that age in which those Fathers lived; by which means the student would be better able to perceive the reason and meaning of passages in their writings, which would otherwise be obscure, when he knew the original and growth of those heresies and heterodox opinions which they wrote against; and might also better judge what doctrines,

It is a sad mistake to give the Fathers a kind of divine authority, of which their often fanciful interpretation of the scriptures, and grossly contradictory explanations, renders them unworthy. The Hon. Robert Boyle justly observes of them, 'Generally they were worthy men, and highly to be regarded as the grand witnesses of the doctrines and government of the Ancient Churches; most of them very pious, many of them very eloquent, and some of them (especially the two critics, Origen and Jerome) very learned; yet so few of the Greek Fathers were skilled in Hebrew, and so few of the Latin Fathers either in Hebrew or Greek, that many of their homilies, and even comments leave hard texts as obscure as they found them; and sometimes, misled by bad translations, they give them senses exceeding wide of the true. So that many times in their writings they appear to be far better divines than commentators, and in an excellent discourse upon a text you will find but a very poor exposition of it.'

The sentiments of our Reformers on the Fathers are worth recording. When Bishop Cox, in 1562, heard of Queen Elizabeth's studying them, he wrote to Cecil, her secretary, 'When all was done, the scripture is that that pierceth. Chrysostom and the Greek Fathers Pelagianizant (favour Pelagius), sometimes Bernard monachizat (is for monkery); and he

monies and opinions prevailed in the Church in every age, and by what means introduced.'—Parr's Life, p. 97.

We should rather recommend, however, the reading of the early historians of the Church, and the best subsequent histories, than the almost impracticable task of following Usher in his gigantic theological studies of all the Fathers.

trusted her grace meddled with them but at spare hours.' ¹

Bishop Jewell, in reply to Harding, shows that Ambrose quoted the preceding Fathers, not as grounds, or principles, or foundations of the faith, but only as interpreters, or witnesses, or consenters to the faith, which Protestants never denied. ²

In the canons of the Church of England, passed in 1571, is a charge (see Sparrow's collection, p. 237.) that 'preachers teach nothing to be religiously held by the people, except that which is agreeable to the doctrine of both testaments, and what has been deduced from that very doctrine by the catholic Fathers and ancient Bishops.' A due attention to this canon would lead all clergymen more diligently to study the early Fathers, and surely some knowledge of them may reasonably be expected from those whose express office it is to maintain and defend religion.

Witsius, in his *True Theologian*, speaking of some of the Fathers as widely shining lights of the primitive church, adds, 'Whose knowledge consisted not in acute subtleties of curious questions, but in devout contemplation of God and His Christ: whose simple and chaste manner of teaching will not sooth prurient ears, but impressing on the mind the character of sacred things, will inflame the soul with the love of them: whose blameless innocence of manners, answering to their profession, and praised even by their enemies, fortified their doctrine with irrefragable evidence, and was an evident sign of their familiar intercourse with the most holy Deity.' In his *Essay*

¹ Strype's *Annals*, Vol. i. 541.

² See *Defence*, p. 62.

on the efficacy of the Baptism of Infants, he thus farther expresses his sentiments, in his usual spirit of Christian love and wisdom: 'I am not pleased to discuss their errors with severity, which I see is the manner of some writers now, who labour with so mad an itch and so varied an outcry of condemnation, that they defile their paper on every occasion, and even without occasion, with the faults of the Fathers. I think that that reverence is due to the Fathers of the Church, eminently merited by their diligence, zeal, and example, that we should pass by their blemishes in their other virtues. At the same time, it is not to be dissembled, that they have often unhappily discussed things of the greatest moment, and frequently admit expressions which, unless softened by the most kind interpretation, give a very hard sense.'

Dr. Chalmers, in his sermon on the respect due to antiquity, adopting Lord Bacon's sentiment, that the time in which we now live is the ancient time, yet happily discriminates, by showing that 'as we are only wiser because of the now larger book of experience which is in our hands, we are not so to scorn antiquity as to cast that book away from us; but we are to learn from antiquity, by giving that book our most assiduous perusal, while at the same time we sit in the exercise of our free and independent judgment over its contents.'¹

¹ It would be easy to enlarge this section, by useful quotations from others; but the Author would rather add references to the original works. At the end of Melancthon's Exposition on the 14th of the Romans, he gives some important and valuable remarks upon the respective Fathers, under the head, 'De Ecclesiasticis Scriptoris Vetustis.'¹ He dwells on Origen, Dionysius, Ter-

¹ See his Works, Vol. iii. p. 1052—1075.

The Author has selected these observations of because his own studies do not justify him in so much on this section. As far as they have gone is disposed to consider that Christian students will find it profitable to read the Fathers more than is ordinarily done. Daillé, in his treatise on their use ; Barbeyrac on their morals ; Whitby, in his on their interpretation of the scriptures ; and Edwards in his *Patrologia* ; have abundantly shown failings and contradictions ; and notwithstanding Scrivener, Reeves, and other attempts to a Daillé, yet it has been sufficiently proved how incompetent their writings are to form an unerring of judgment respecting divine truth. Have they been studied rather controversially than practically thence the study may have comparatively been unful as to real edification. Milner has led us to a plan of reading them. Their testimony to the

tullian, Cyprian, Basil, Chrysostom, Ambrose, Jerome, Augustine and Gregory. Luther's View of the Fathers, in his own stronger (if we may receive the Table Talk as conveying his just sentiment is worth referring to. See chap. xxvi. and xxix. of that Some discriminating views of the style and character of the Fathers are given by Erasmus, in his *Epistles*, Lib. xxviii. p. 1148, though we should not look to him for just views of writings doctrinal subjects. Some useful hints, from different authors are gathered together by Leigh, in his *Body of Divinity*, p. 112. He quotes extracts from Erasmus' *Epistles*. Bishop Wilkins Erasmus' character of the Fathers, in his *Gift of Preaching*, and Jewell's Defence of his Apology, p. 59—64. is also well consulting. He shows the opinions which the Fathers enter of each other, to confute the vain pretensions of the Romans who would ascribe to them an undue authority in matters of Luther says, 'Austin always has had the pre-eminence, the first in esteem was Ambrose, Bernard the third. When Bernard preaches, then he is above all the teachers ; but when he dies then he is altogether another man : there he gives too much precept and free will. Cyril has the best sentences. Theophilus is the best expounder of St. Paul.

Scriptures has been elaborately displayed by Lardner; and that of the Ante-Nicene Fathers to the divinity of Christ, by Mr. Burton. Their evidence, from age to age, in favour of the main truths of the gospel, is of great importance, and especially their testimony on the Socinian controversy; and their deeply serious views of spiritual and eternal things, cannot be read without profit. Yet, as critics on the sacred text, they are inferior to writers since the Reformation; and, as final judges of divine truth, or as having any traditional authority to decide scriptural obscurities, they must be utterly renounced. Even from the beginning *false philosophy* (Col. ii. 8.) began to corrupt the church. An Usher might read the whole body of the Fathers with profit; but unless, as in his case, there be a special reason for doing so, there would be no adequate advantage, and many disadvantages in so extensive a study. Milner, in a private letter to Newton in 1771, says, there were some very great Christians among them, though most of them mixed gospel truths with strange whimsies. The mixture of Platonism with the gospel was a great evil.'

Little need be added respecting individual Fathers. The Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians, and the Epistles of Ignatius are beautiful specimens and remnants of Christian antiquity.

Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Cyprian, Chrysostom, Athanasius, and Augustine, shine as splendid lights in the early centuries. Their answers to the heathen of their day furnish us with ample materials for meeting the sophistries of infidels and heathen nations in our own times.

5. Men of the learning of Justin and Tertullian were doubtless used as important means of furthering the

gospel by their character, as men of superior understanding, and therefore not easily deluded, as well as by their treatises. To see them humbling themselves before the gospel, despising their former notions, and strenuously counteracting their influence, not only by their profession, but by their defences of this new Faith, must have had a prodigious influence. Though it seemed right that the gospel should be introduced to the world by poor and illiterate men, (1 Cor. i. 26—29.) yet in its farther advancement, in resisting the subtilty as well as malice of its enemies, it should avail itself of the best human help, of wisdom and learning, under the influence of divine blessing, to assail its adversaries with their own misdirected weapons.

Jerome's and Origen's invaluable labours in the restoration, preservation, and handing down to us the pure text of the word of God must not be overlooked; to their revisions and translations of that word how much are we now indebted for that invaluable gift, the Holy Scriptures.

The Author has been delighted with the little which he has read of Augustine. The humility, devotion, and unction of this Father; the acute, lucid, and happy way in which he meets his objectors; and the heavenly wisdom (James iii. 17.) running through his remarks, will always, notwithstanding the excess of allegorical interpretation and the defect of a clear statement of justification, make his writings valuable.

There are, in the voluminous works of the Fathers, many treatises that may be separately read with considerable advantage. Such as Justin Martyr's and Tertullian's Apologies, Cyprian's Letters, Augustine's *Confessions*, his *City of God* and *Treatises against the*

Pelagians, Origen's work against Celsus, Gregory's Pastor, Eusebius's Ecclesiastical History, and many delightfully devotional treatises in Bernard.

Justin Martyr's clear view of Justification may be seen in the following extract of his Epistle to Diognetus—'He gave his Son a ransom for us; the holy for the transgressors, the good for the evil, the just for the unjust, the incorruptible for the corrupt, the immortal for mortals. For what else cover our sins but his righteousness? In whom else could we the unjust and the impious be accounted righteous, but in the Son of God only? O the sweet exchange! O the unsearchable contrivance! O the unexpected benefits, that the iniquity of many should be hid in a righteous one, and that the righteousness of one should justify many who were unjust.'¹

Chrysostom held the same doctrine distinctly, showing in the case of Abraham, (in his 2nd Hom. on the Epistle to the Romans,) that works of faith do not justify before God. 'The Apostle means to show that even Abraham was justified by faith; in which indeed there is the excellence of a mighty victory; for it is not indeed unlikely that one who has no good works should be justified by faith, but that a man adorned with beautiful deeds, should be justified not thence, but from faith, is truly wonderful.' Abraham was indeed, as it regards the evidence of justification, justified by works; but as it regards the reason of his justification before God, it was simply from divine grace through faith, as Chrysostom shows.

¹ See Justin Martyr's Works. Ed. Paris, fo. 1742. Some doubts has been raised whether the Epistle be his. Dupin considers it to be so, without certainly affirming it.

Chrysostom's work on the priesthood is valuable for the continual sentiments it brings before us of deep-toned responsibility in reference to the ministry, though not for its clear evangelical views. His Homilies also are said to be excellent specimens of the best mode of popular expository preaching.

Though we have gladly inserted the quotations just recited of decided statement of evangelical truth, yet the works of the Fathers do not, if the Author, with very limited information, may express an opinion, like the works of the Reformers, abound with such statements; and it must be admitted that there are many expressions from which the Romanists have strengthened themselves in their errors. Milner remarks that the doctrine of justification by faith was never fully and clearly exhibited to the church until the days of Luther. Augustine, one of the most evangelical of the Fathers, did not accurately understand this doctrine, frequently confounding justification and sanctification.¹

The works of the Fathers contain many commentaries on the scriptures: information respecting their character will be found in Mr. Conybeare's Lectures. Allegorical interpretation begun by Clemens, after Philo Judæus, and continued by Origen and those who succeeded him, was carried to such an excess as to render them very unsound interpreters of scripture. Jerome is more free from this excess than Augustine and several of the preceding Fathers, but errs on the other side, and as Luther says, 'studiously endeavours to draw every thing to a merely historical reading.'

¹ See Milner, Vol. iii. p. 9. 462. 463.

Mr. Conybeare says of Augustine, 'His critical defects are obvious and glaring, but he who is insensible to the beauty, the piety, and the devotion, and spiritual feeling which are to be found in almost every page of his Commentary, must be to say no more, both uncandid and fastidious.' Luther certainly preferred his expositions to those of Jerome.¹

Nicholas de Lyra, who flourished at the beginning of the 14th century, led the way to a more correct interpretation of scripture. Luther acknowledged himself much indebted to him.

The Pelagian Controversy was very important, as illustrating the doctrine of sanctification. The sentiments of Pelagius (who was a Welsh monk, and whose real name was Morgan) may be gathered from the Fathers. He denied original sin, and, allowing external grace to excite our endeavours, denied the internal work of the Spirit, and conceived good works to be meritorious, and perfection attainable.² Pelagius's own expression is, 'in all there is free will by nature, but in Christians alone it is helped by grace.' Semi-Pelagianism afterwards arose; its language is, 'though man cannot persevere in virtue without divine grace, yet he can turn himself first to God.'²

Milner has some excellent remarks in the passages referred to, on the subtilty of Satan in introducing

¹ Conybeare's Lectures, 182. See also Milner, Vol. ii. p. 438. Vol. iv. 330.

Latius de Pelagianis, Jansenius, Augustine, and Usher, *Historia Gotechali*, contain much valuable information respecting this departure from the gospel. Vossius has been considered by some too partial to the Pelagians.

² See Milner's History of the Church of Christ, Vol. ii. p. 368—389.

this heresy at this time, and the wisdom of God in raising up Augustine as a scourge to it, so that it was 'eventually one of the grand means of introducing juster views of gospel grace than had for a long time obtained in the church, and of reviving Christian truth, humility, and piety.'¹

As we depart from the apostolic age, the church in

¹ The four first seals of the Apocalyptic vision contain a striking view of the History of the *Church* in this period. Durham, Vitringa, and Dean Woodhouse apply them to the Christian Church, rather than to the Roman Empire. Dean Woodhouse observes, 'There is a sublime climax or scale of terrific imagery exhibited in the colours of the horses, denoting, as I understand them, the progressive character of the Christian times, from its pure beginning to its greatest corruption. It begins with *pure white*; then changes to *fiery and vengeful*; then to *black and mournful*; and when we suppose that nothing more dreadful in colour can appear, then comes another gradation still more terrific, even this *deadly pale*; and the imagery is scriptural as well as sublime, and a striking resemblance of it may be observed in the following poetical passage. *Her Nazarites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, her polishing was of sapphire. Their visage is blacker than a coal.* (Heb. darker than blackness.) *They are not known in the streets; their skin cleaveth to their bones, it is withered.* Such a gradation also was there, from heavenly pure to foul and horrible, in the Christian church.'

'When (under the second seal) uncharitable controversies and ambitious animosities had banished that peace which true religion cannot fail to promote; and dark ignorance, and superstition, and domineering priestcraft (under the third seal) had fixed a burdensome yoke (*Zygos*. Rev. vi. 6.) on the necks of the disciples, and made pure Christian knowledge of difficult attainment, then greater evils naturally ensued. Ignorance became blind submission, and priestcraft advanced into civil tyranny. Thus (under the fourth seal) *the mystery of iniquity* was completed. It was then that the harsh usurpation which we call the papal tyranny was extended over the lives and consciences of Christians. To profess religion in its purity became a crime. . . . Thus under the assumed authority of the Christian church, under the auspices and direction of her professed ministers and rulers, *Death and Hell* were seen to devastate a great part of the Christian world, destroying the lives of men both literally and spiritually, and eradicating the pure doctrines of the gospel.'—See Woodhouse's Annotations, p. 139—142.

general departed from evangelical simplicity. Dr. Prideaux in his address to the reader before his *Life of Mahomet*, says, ‘The churches in the East having drawn the abstrusest niceties into controversy, did thereby so destroy peace, love, and charity from among them that they lost the whole substance of their religion, and in a manner drove Christianity quite out of the world by those very controversies in which they disputed with each other about it. So that the Saracens taking advantage of the weakness of power, and distractions of councils which those divisions had caused, soon overran with terrible devastation, all the Eastern Provinces of the Roman empire; turned every where their churches into mosques, and forced on them the abominable imposture of Mahometanism.’—Pp. vii, viii.

Nothing can be more painful than the interminable and fierce conflicts on the veriest trifles which divided large portions of the professing Christian church. A heathen author, probably exaggerating the actual state of things, says, ‘the hatred of Christians to each other, exceeded the fury of wild beasts against men.’ God had His own servants in the midst of these days, but it was only His special mercy and faithfulness to His promises (Matt. xvi. 18.) that preserved a church amidst such unchristian controversies. As might be expected, amidst such a general decay of piety, not many works worth studying have come down to us from the sixth to the fifteenth century. Bede, Bertram, Theophylact, and Bernard, are among the most useful writers in that period.

The titles of the centuries before the Reformation, given by Cave, are very significative of the state of divinity in each age:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Apostolic. | 9. Photian. |
| 2. Gnostic. | 10. Obscure. |
| 3. Novatian. | 11. Hildebrandine. |
| 4. Arian. | 12. Waldensian. |
| 5. Nestorian. | 13. Scholastic. |
| 6. Eutychian. | 14. Wickliffite. |
| 7. Monothelite. | 15. Synodal. |
| 8. Eiconoclastic. | 16. Reformed. ¹ |

SECTION II.

THE SCHOOLMEN, AND THEIR CONTEMPORARIES.

It will be seen that the thirteenth century is called Scholastic by Cave, and little indeed of real good seems to have been effected by such writers.² As they once, however, occupied a leading post in divinity, and valuable writers lived in their times, we will give some testimonies to the character of the schoolmen, and contemporary writers.

¹ Some of the writings of the Fathers have been translated into English. It would be a useful and acceptable work for British Christians, if the most correct of these translations and fresh translations of works that might be edifying, which have not yet been translated, were published in ten or twelve volumes octavo.—And if the most valuable extracts from the original Fathers with English translations, were published in a similar number of volumes, it would be a very useful work to students in divinity. When the Fathers were more studied, two useful books were published Sculteti *Medulla Patrum*, containing an analysis of the Fathers, chiefly of the first three centuries; and Rouse's *Mella Patrum*, containing extracts from their writings. The student will find these works give a good general view of what may be met with in the Fathers whom these writers notice. Le Nourry's *Apparatus*, and Walchii *Bibliotheca Patristica*, give full accounts of what concerns the Fathers, and Dupin's *Bibliotheca* has considerable *abridgements* of most of their works.

² See Milner's account of the School Divinity, Vol. iv. p. 108.

Of the schoolmen Luther says, 'They did nothing but propose paradoxes; their whole art was founded on a contempt for scripture; and here I know the truth of what I say, for I was brought up among them.' There are some other striking views of the school divinity in his *Colloquia Mensalia*, see chap. 1. and 30.

Leighton observes in his address to students, 'That you may not be imposed upon by the common reputation of acuteness and learning, I confidently affirm, that to understand and be master of those trifling disputes that prevail in the schools, is an evidence of a very mean understanding; while, on the contrary, it is an argument of a genius truly great, entirely to slight and despise them, and to walk in the light of pure and peaceable truth, which is far above the dark and cloudy region of controversial disputes.'

Usher says of the schoolmen, 'They were good to puzzle men's heads with unnecessary doubts, but bunglers in resolving them, and that their writings had done more mischief to the church, than brought advantage either to learning or religion; that they might serve for controversial disputes in the schools, but were very improper for the pulpit, and altogether useless for the functions of a civil life. Bishop Wilkins gives similar views in his *Gift of Preaching*.

Rainoldes thus addresses Hart respecting the schoolmen. 'The schoolmen are the men that must uphold Papistry, with the friendly help of the canonists their brethren. The Scriptures and Fathers would be pretended for a show to countenance the matter. But they are like to images in old buildings of antique work, which are framed so that with their shoulders they seem to bear the roof, whereas that indeed rests

on walls or pillars. The schoolmen and canonists, the fountains of the corruptions which has infected the church of Christ, the schoolmen in doctrine by the opinions of popery ; the canonists in discipline by the state of the papacy ; the schoolmen and the canonists are the two pillars that uphold your church as the house of Dagon, in which the Philistines triumph, and insult over the faith and God of Sampson.'—P. 72.

After such testimonies, very little need be said. The philosophy of Aristotle was introduced into divinity. Lombard, Bishop of Paris, to remedy this, made a collection of passages out of the Fathers, entitled the Book of Sentences ; but the scholastic writers, by their commentaries upon it, only made it the means of introducing afresh the endless questions of scholastic theology.

Bonaventura and Aquinas, styled by their admirers, the seraphic and angelical doctors, were the most famous writers of this class. Luther says, Bonaventura is the best among all the school divines and church writers. Estius's Sum is said to contain the best account of the scholastic divinity. Colet's opinion of Aquinas is worth recording. Speaking to Erasmus, who had been praising that school divine, he said, ' Why are you so fond of commending that schoolman, who, without a great deal of arrogance, could never have reduced all things into such positive and dogmatical definitions ; and without too much of a worldly spirit, he could never have so much corrupted and defiled the pure doctrines of the gospel with his mixture of profane philosophy.'¹

¹ See Colet's Life, p. 49

Dark indeed, was the state of divinity, when at the commencement of the Reformation, the faculty of theology at Paris declared that 'Religion was undone, if the study of Greek and Hebrew was permitted,' and one of the Monks uttered these words, 'They have invented a new language which they call Greek, you must be carefully on your guard against it, it is the mother of all heresy. I observe in the hands of many persons a book written in that language, and which they call the New Testament. It is a book full of daggers and poison. As to the Hebrew, dear brethren, it is certain, that all who learn it become instantaneously Jews.' Yet through Divine mercy, even those dark ages were not left wholly without scriptural writers. Bradwardine, Wickliffe, Huss, and Jerome, diffused some rays of evangelical light through the darkness.

Bradwardine and Wickliffe were British Divines. Bradwardine speaks with much grief of the general departure from the doctrine of free grace, and compares it to that of the 450 false prophets united against one. He says, 'How many indeed in our times despise thy saving grace, and contend that free-will is sufficient for salvation, or if they use the term grace, either use it perfunctorily as a pretence, or boast that they deserve it by the strength of their free-will.' He speaks afterwards of almost the whole world as having thus gone into the error of Pelagius. See the Preface to his 'Causa Dei.'

Of Bradwardine's great work, Milner gives a full account. It is a surprising work for the age in which it appeared.

Wickliffe's life and sentiments have been recently fully investigated by the researches of Mr. Vaughan,

works;¹ and on Edward's accession it was no longer circulated by authority: all these works attest that light was winning its way through the darkness, and the dawn of a better time was already apparent.

SECTION III.

THE REFORMERS.

The sixteenth century introduces us to the wonderful display of divine grace in the **GLORIOUS REFORMATION**. It was a real Reformation—a return to God on the purifying principles of His own word. It was one of the mercies of that era, that it was the revival of literature, particularly in the knowledge of the original language of Scripture. The discovery of printing amazingly facilitated the diffusion of divine truth, and in consequence, the revival of religion. Men of learning were very generally men of God, and gave in the reformed churches the tone of religion to the course of study in universities and seminaries. Learning was more exclusively religious then than at any future time; and many writers on general subjects, who incidentally mention religion, were manifestly right in doctrine. Would that this could be said now !

It is an æra that calls for close attention and diligent

¹ Bishop Tanner in his *Bibliotheca*, p. 309, ascribes the Erudition to Gardiner as the principal composer.—Cranmer's objections to, and Annotations on the Necessary Erudition are given in the *Fathers of the Church*, Vol. III. p. 71—112.—Bishop Lloyd has edited the *Formularies of Faith*, set forth in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

study. The original writers and the historians of that age will amply repay all our researches. They will both edify the heart, and fortify us against almost every modern, as well as ancient error. The poet Cowper writes to a relation respecting his studies, ‘ Let your divinity, if I may advise you, be the divinity of the glorious Reformation. I mean in contradistinction to Arminianism, and all the *isms* that were ever broached in this world of error and ignorance. The divinity of the Reformation is called Calvinism, but injuriously; it has been that of the Church of Christ in all ages; it is the divinity of St. Paul, and of St. Paul’s Master, who met him in his way to Damascus.’ In this view the Author fully concurs, and he feels it the more important to press the subject, as the Reformers have been either disparaged or neglected by modern writers.

To show that the Reformers have been neglected, we need only look at the list of books recommended in the lists of Dr. Wotton, Bishops Cleaver, Watson,¹ and Tomline, Drs. Williams, and Doddridge. Bishops Cleaver and Tomline almost wholly leave them out. Dr. Williams, in his *Christian Preacher*, has very little noticed them. Even Doddridge, who enters at some length into different schools of divinity, entirely forgets this school. To say nothing of foreign Reformers, Luther, Melancthon, Calvin, Zuinglius, Martyr, and Bucer, he mentions not our own Jewell, Latimer, Cranmer, Nowell, Foxe, Willett, Hooker, Perkins, &c. Though he gives generally just and discriminating characters of subsequent writers, the more scriptural

¹ Bishop Watson, after mentioning the works of Episcopius, Curcellæus, and Limborch, says, ‘ After the works of these three Foreigners I would have added, but for fear of swelling the Catalogue, those of Luther, Calvin, Melancthon, and Zuinglius,’ &c. It is painful thus to see our best Reformers put after such inferior men.

school of the Reformation is wholly omitted. The departure from their principles produced a neglect of their writings in previous days, and this made them scarce and dear ; and hence probably, some of these writers omitted them, but this very omission tended to increase the disregard to them. The Church of Christ, and the Church of England as a pure part of that Church, have materially suffered from this neglect.

But they have not only been neglected, but also disparaged. Speaking on the subject of the Divine decrees, a late Dignitary of our Church, while commending our own Reformers, says of the foreign ones, " Zuingle, Calvin, and Luther were men of more zeal than judgment. The very expression *good works* conveyed so unchristian a sound in their ears, that in guarding against it, they thought the doctrine of *Divine Agency* could not possibly be carried too far. In their pious zeal for the honour of God they established what Dr. Balguy truly, though perhaps coarsely, calls 'A SYSTEM OF NONSENSE.'"—To describe their sentiments, even on the divine decrees, as a system of nonsense, appears to the Author to be an exemplification of the words of the apostle, *The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God—they are foolishness to him* ;—and the general view thus given of the Reformers is erroneous and unfounded.

Another writer, in an Essay on Study, says, ' The man would take his measures very wrong, who, to understand the noblest of all the sciences, divinity, should choose to study the works of Luther and Calvin for it, instead of reading Episcopius, Turretin, Limborch, with the excellent sermons and divines of the Church of England, writ in the last and in the present century. The scriptures, with the art of reasoning and writing methodically, have been much

better understood in these latter times than they were in the times of the Reformers.' Is not the real case just the reverse, at least as it regards divinity? However the art of writing or reasoning on human literature and science may have been improved, we may well return to the Reformers for scriptural theology. Unlike other sciences, divinity, derived not from human research, but from the word of God, revealed and applied by the Holy Ghost, is most pure in its first source, and is revived as men apply simply to that source, and becomes corrupted and tainted in the various channels through which it may afterwards pass. We are persuaded that pure evangelical truth, in its native vigour and unction, will be much more readily found in either Luther or Calvin, than in the argumentative and reasoned out Arminianism of Episcopius and Limborch, or even than in the refined system of the excellent Turretin, in the study of whose works there are doubtless important advantages.

The more the Author has read of the writings of the Reformers, whether of our own or other countries, the more he is fully disposed, making allowances for an ancient dress, and some errors of the times, to agree with those who think that they were eminently scriptural in their sentiments and statements. They are less systematic, and more experimental; less theoretic, and more practical, on Christian principles; they are more consistent in doctrine, and more useful in application, than many of their successors. Their standard of divinity is of a high, and sound, and generally uniform character. Those who are supposed by some to have improved theology, have, in the

author's opinion, really lowered the tone of divine truth.¹

The Reformation, being carried on by human agents, had doubtless its defects. The true spirit of toleration was so little known, that the martyr Cranmer was accessory to the burning of two who denied important doctrines; and Calvin and Melancthon cannot be cleared from an approval of the burning of Servetus. They seem too anxious often to have the authority of the earlier Fathers; and Luther's failures in the sacramental controversy are well known.

The want of a missionary spirit was one of the defects of the Reformation. Both Jew and Gentile could say, *No man careth for my soul*. Their

¹ He is happy to support these sentiments by the following observations of the excellent Joseph Milner.

'It seems to be commonly believed that there is a natural and gradual progression in religious knowledge, as in all human arts and sciences, that each age must necessarily be wiser than that which preceded it; that the era of the Reformation was only the infancy of theology; that great improvements were made by the divines of the seventeenth century; but that the eighteenth century bids fair for advancing the science to perfection, on account of the labours of certain ingenious and philosophical persons, who hope to emancipate it from the fetters of scholastic jargon, and fix it on the solid foundation of reason and truth.'

After admitting the improvement of natural science, through experience, and stating that this very experience is despised in religion, he goes on: 'Nor is this all; the success of religion does not ultimately depend on human powers and resources; the influence of the Holy Spirit is the great cause in this subject: as that is poured out, or withheld, religion will prosper or decay... In the effusions of the Spirit of God, the lustre, power, and energy of Christianity appear. Hence the genuine nature and effects of true religion may be estimated with sufficient accuracy, the degree of the declensions of other periods may be measured, and the quantity of sound religion may be ascertained.'¹

¹ See Milner's Tracts, p. 297, 298.

work with the Papists, and the full employment with which it furnished them, was a palliative of this, rather than a full exculpation for the almost total neglect of a positive command; Mark xvi. 15. Yet efforts were made: under the influence of Admiral de Coligni and Calvin, a body of faithful went from Geneva, in September, 1556, to South America, in the hope of establishing the doctrines of the Reformation on that extensive continent, and of introducing them among the heathen; but the primary design was to secure an asylum to the Reformed from persecution in Europe. The attempt failed of success. Another effort was made in Lapland, in 1559. But the missionary spirit was not dominant in the Reformation, as in the primitive Church.

In these, and other things, God has shown us that we cannot glory in men, but must ascribe the immense blessings, which the Reformation brought, only to His grace. It was not an arm of flesh that accomplished this work. An Augustine monk, trusting in Jehovah alone, commences it. The Pope reigned over Christendom. The Papists filled every benefice. The Reformers had no human power to conquer their enemies. They simply proclaimed the gospel of Christ, and error, by the power of the Holy Ghost, fell before them.

The work of the Reformers was not, as it has been noticed, like the work of the Apostles, introducing a fresh and original body of religious truth; but the removing of all those massive obstructions, under which the truth that had been given was buried and lost, and placing the recovered light on a candlestick, that it might *give light to all in the house*. Their *great principles were the supreme authority of the*

Holy Scriptures over the mind and conscience; and the responsibility of every human being to God, and to God only, as the ultimate judge, for his faith and conduct; and thence the paramount duty of each one exercising his own judgment on the divine records, and drawing his own sentiments from them.

God showed on an illustrious scale the **POWER OF SIMPLE FAITH IN HIS WORD**, to break through all kinds of impediments and obstructions, which for a thousand years the great enemy had been casting round that word. The Reformers lived by faith on that word, and sustained by hopes realized through faith (Heb. xi.), they endured the conflict, and attained the crown.

The time of the commencement of Reformation was peculiarly favourable for the display of the divine power. Popery probably was at its zenith under the pontificate of Leo X. Upon the first disclosure of Luther's convictions, a learned man is said to have confessed that it was the truth, but it was no use for him to adventure for it, when nothing was left but retirement, and to pray *misereri mei*. Europe (at least the great states) were in a time of peace, and therefore the voice of the gospel was more distinctly heard, than it would have been amid the noise of war.

It was a merciful providence that the very elements of our national constitution in England were imbued at the Reformation with the principles of the gospel. Our coronation service is throughout evangelical. Our king is acknowledged to reign by the grace of God. Our Houses of Parliament, our Colleges, our elder Grammar Schools, and our Assizes commence their proceedings with prayer. Our indentures, our writs, our bills of lading, all in form

acknowledge God. Our coats of arms have generally Christian mottos. Our ancient wills have all a pious commencement. The whole land is divided into parishes, and every parish has its appointed teacher. Christianity is a part of our laws, and has a national establishment and public maintenance. We have thus the complete frame-work of *a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people*. Alas ! that it should now have become so generally only the frame-work ! like the magnificent ruins of the temple, of which it might once be said, *The Lord is there*, but on which we must now write *Ichabod, the glory is departed* ; till the full time come, when the old wastes shall be built, and the former desolations shall be raised up, *and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of former generations*.

Even works on general science were written in a religious spirit. We see this in Bacon. Lord Coke closes the preface to his great work with an acknowledgment of his weakness and want of judgment, and a prayer for wisdom from the Father of mercies. Holinshed thus closes his history : ‘ We beseech God to increase the multitude of loyal subjects, to make them strong in faith towards him, and in love one with another, that the gospel, which is the doctrine of pacification and obedience, may be glorified in the Commonwealth of England ; a corner of the world, O Lord, which thou hast singled out for the magnifying of thy majesty ; and whereof we pray thee give us a daily remembrance : so shall we make conscience of sin, and addict ourselves to the exercises of righteousness.’

A thorough knowledge of the principles, theology, and history of the Reformation is of great importance

in many points of view. The protestant church derives its religious views only from the scriptures; yet we owe this important principle, and therefore much of our present spiritual knowledge, to the Reformers who, under God, removed the errors and superstitions that had been growing for centuries. We shall better understand our present privileges, and the nature and full value of our principles, by seeing with what difficulty they were attained and secured. The contest with popery is by no means yet terminated, either in our own or in foreign countries. The doctrines of the Reformation, or rather scriptural truths, have yet to vanquish and overthrow the errors of Rome through a great part of the continent, and errors in many respects similar, through the Greek and Eastern churches.

In our own and other protestant countries, the difficulties of the times at the period of the Reformation, even when better principles did not, obliged governments to fix the most able and approved Divines in places of power and influence, and happily such men had been prepared, manifested, and proved by previous difficulties. We see this in the persecutions of Henry the 8th's reign, before King Edward, and of Mary's reign before Elizabeth.

The advantage of this was immense. No school is more beneficial than the school of suffering, to lead men to those principles of religion which are vital and influential.

Who can tell too the blessing of the sufferings and martyrdoms, in Queen Mary's reign? They have given us an instinctive dread of popery which we trust will never be eradicated, till popery be for ever lost in the pure light of divine truth. Never did the great

they more effectually weaken his own power. Their death endeared their memory to every Briton; it threw a halo of sanctity around their doctrines, of which we feel the benefit to the present hour. The schools and charities which they established still bless the land.¹

It has been observed that the most comforting, cheering, and edifying of St. Paul's Epistles were those written during his imprisonment; the same remark applies to the writings of the Reformers. The letters written in prison, the examination of the confessors, and the treatises which they then sent forth, are full of unction. There is a savour of religion about them which we cannot easily find any where else. The times of the Reformers, their dangers, difficulties, and sufferings, seem requisite to raise up the spirit of Reformers.

May it not have been from their sufferings that in the Articles, the Homilies, and the Liturgy of the Church of England, our Reformers dwell so much on the main and simple truths of the gospel? At the same time, through the divine mercy, the men who composed our national Formularies being in leading situations in the church, and the nation, from the manifested abominations and cruelties of popery, being in a prepared state to receive such Formularies, they became part of the authorized and acknowledged national religion of our country. Similar occurrences prepared the way for the reception of the like doctrines through the Reformed Churches.

At no subsequent period should we in all probability

¹ For a list of charities established by the Reformers, see the end of Willett's Synopsis Papismi.

in our own country have had Articles so purely scriptural. At a later period we should have had the straiter refinements of the Lambeth Articles ; at a still later we should have had an extreme on the very opposite side. The wisdom given to our Reformers, even beyond that of those of other countries, calls for our warmest gratitude to God, the fountain of all wisdom. The caution with which they proceeded in every alteration was truly admirable. They had jealous fear of introducing needless and rash innovations. Perhaps if in any thing they erred, it was in leaning too much on the early Fathers as a needful testimony to the doctrines of the gospel, and the discipline of the church ; and yet this was safer than a total and rash neglect of them, and they often speak soundly on the subject. (See Jewel's Defence, p. 59.) Yet they did not perhaps always stand so exclusively on the authority of the scriptures as the main principles of protestantism demanded. Many of them, as Jewell, Ridley, and Cranmer, were unquestionably men of considerable learning in the works of the Fathers and school Divines, and were thus able to meet the papists on their own ground, while they ever manifested great charity towards them, and gave them no needless offence.

The love of God, as a reconciled and tender Father, displayed to us through Immanuel, the only and complete Saviour, was their leading topic : Christ crucified, not beheld on a visible crucifix, but received in the heart by a lively faith. Hence the grand features of their statements were salvation by grace through faith unto holiness—*we love him because he first loved us*—in short Jesus Christ, our entire Saviour. We have a beautiful specimen of their doctrines in

the Homilies on Faith, Good Works, and Salvation, a sweet spirit of adoption, a feeling of the love of God as a Father, pervades and enlivens their writings. Doctrines are not brought forward, except as they were compelled to it, controversially but practically and devotionally. They distinctly held man's total moral inability, depravity, and corruption, God's free and sovereign mercy in our salvation, and our election in Christ Jesus unto all holy obedience.¹

In our own church there was a most happy agreement with the foreign churches. Martyr and Bucer came over and assisted in the first establishment of our church, and the disputes were not then, as Bishop Carleton shows, about doctrine, in which there was a general agreement, but about ceremonies and discipline, to which the Puritans objected. Bishop Carleton states, that in the Articles and Homilies they had special respect unto Augustine. On justification however they were much more clear and scriptural than that Father.

Most carefully did the Reformers guard against the fearful error of charging God in any degree with man's sin. On this Melancthon, speaking of the cause of sin and contingency, says, 'Young students are to be admonished to seek simple conclusions conducive to piety and holiness of life, and to rest in them, rather than suffer themselves to be led away by captious and delusive disputations. Among such conclusions is the principle ever to be held fast and embraced with the

¹ Without commending their spirit, or the mode of defending the doctrines of grace adopted by Prynne, Edwards, Bowman, and Toplady, it appears to the Author that they have successfully established the main position that the Reformers did hold the views above mentioned.

whole heart, that God is not the cause of sin, nor does he will its existence, but its true causes are the will of Satan and that of man.' ¹

On James i. 27. Queen Elizabeth's Bishops say, 'Seeing all good things come of God we ought not to make Him the author of evil.'

But the doctrine, the revival of which chiefly characterized the Reformation, was that of JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH. This runs through all the writings of the Reformers, like a rich vein of gold, and their works are in this doctrine particularly, a mine of invaluable wealth to the church. 'A Christian may glory,' says Luther, 'that in Christ he has all things; that all the righteousness and merits of Christ are his own by virtue of that spiritual union which he has with Him by faith. On the other hand, that all his sins are no longer his, but that Christ through the same union, bears the burden of them. And this is the confidence of Christians, this is the refreshment of their consciences, that by faith our sins cease to be ours judicially, because they are laid on Him, "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."'

Luther considered this the great doctrine of Christianity, and the test of orthodoxy or heresy, as it was

¹ His words in the last Edition of his Common Places (See Opera Tom. I. p. 162.) are so forcible and sententious, that I quote them. 'Estque hæc væra et pia sententia, utra que manû, et verius toto pectore tenenda, Deum non esse causam peccati, nec velle peccatum, nec impellere voluntates ad peccandum, nec approbare peccatum. Sed vere et horribiliter irasci peccato, ut totiùs suo verbo assiduis pœnis et calamitatibus mundi comminatione æternæ viæ declarat: Imo iram adversus peccatum maxime ostendit filius Dei, qui apparuit, ut victima fieret pro peccato et ostenderet Diabolum esse autorem peccati et sua morte iram ingentem Patres placaret.'

held soundly or corruptly ; that all other points were subordinate to or centred in this ; and that every objection to it which could possibly be devised, was done away by this single consideration, namely, that a right faith was necessarily productive of good works.¹

The English Reformation was happily conducted under the authority of government, and with a constant reference to antiquity. The Reformation in Geneva and in Scotland unhappily had to contend with authorities. Though Calvin's memory has been amply redeemed from the charge of opposition and insubordination to constituted authorities,² yet he was in principle a Republican. Knox and others imbibed much of this spirit at Geneva, which the circumstances of the Reformation in Scotland tended to call forth. Few of the meek and lowly followers of Christ will now justify some of the discourses of Knox, notwithstanding the able defence in M'Crie's *Life of that Reformer*.

The Author would here have willingly entered into a review of the writings of the Reformers, but he feels too incompetent, and too uninformed, and he has too little leisure to attempt to do so. He gives merely the remarks which his very limited information suggests.

Our own Reformers, like the Primitive Christians, were rather called to believe and suffer than to write ; yet they have left a mantle behind which succeeding teachers will find of inestimable value.

Tindal was one of the earliest, and has been called

¹ See Milner, Vol. iv. p. 421.

² See Horsley's Sermon on Rom. xiii. 1. and Appendix.

the Apostle of England. He will amply repay perusal. He is clear in his doctrinal statements, taking the same views as Calvin, though he wrote before him ; he is comforting, practical, and devotional.

Latimer, by his naiveté and simplicity, his wit, honesty, and piety, has more than the other Reformers retained his popularity. He will furnish many hints for useful addresses to the people.

Cranmer's writings manifest sound learning, deep piety, and holy wisdom. His Catechism and his Book on the Sacrament, and the Homilies prepared by him, are full of the very spirit of the Reformation.

Bishop Ridley and Philpot were esteemed among the most learned of our Reformers. They had sound and clear views of that gospel which they sealed with their blood.

Bradford's Letters are among the most edifying and instructive remains of this period ; the sweet spirit of adoption breathes throughout.

Jewell is eminent for his extensive learning, his sound views, and his Christian eloquence. All his works are valuable.

Fox is a voluminous writer, having written several works besides his Acts and Monuments ; he is serious, honest, and open in his avowal of the doctrine of Christ.

Knox, was more especially called to action than to writing, and his life is a vivid book, illustrating by its own brightness the energy of divine grace ; his History of the Reformation, which is his principal work, was not finished by himself.¹

We need not speak farther of Barnes, Becon, Frith,

¹ See M'Crie's Life, p. 352—368.

Gilby, Hamilton, Hooper, Lever, L. Ridley, and other noble Confessors of the faith in this age.

The English Reformers are now becoming more accessible. Mr. Richmond rendered an invaluable service by his selections in eight volumes. The intended reprint of Jewell at the Clarendon Press, and of Fox by Dibdin, and of their works in general, as recently advertised, would greatly facilitate the reading of these works. Jewell's Apology and the Defence of it, Bradford's Letters, Philpot's Examinations, Cranmer's Notes on the King's Book, Fox's Martyrs, will especially reward the labour of study.

Through eternity, a countless number of British Christians, will have to bless God for raising up our Reformers. They erected here a standard of truth which has since been carried to remote regions, and is now planted in almost every corner of the earth. All glory to God our Saviour !

The character of the writings of FOREIGN DIVINES was diversified.

Luther is powerful, lively, and decisive ; a keen, distinct, and strong evangelical statement distinguishes his writings. He is ever insisting on the main doctrine of justification by faith, and boldly maintaining the whole range of truth.

Melancthon is polished and cautious, decisive in the same main doctrine, but hesitating on many points, and backward to state his views on Calvinistic topics, having much natural aversion to controversy.

Calvin has an uncommonly fine genius, and is full of beautiful and original illustrations of God's word ; he is more consistent, and accurate, and systematic than the other Reformers. His danger is pushing his statements beyond the Scriptures.

Zuinglius is acute, penetrating, and adventurous, he holds justification by faith, but has some peculiar opinions.

We need not proceed farther. The writings of *Æcolampadius*, *Martyr*, *Bucer*, *Bullinger*, *Beza*, and a vast number of others, whose Commentaries on the Scriptures occupy many large folio volumes, may often now be purchased at a reasonable price.

Those who can read Latin, will find their works and those of *Luther*, *Calvin*, *Melancthon*, *Chemnicus*, &c. full of sound and invaluable divinity: at least this is the Author's conviction, as far as he has had opportunity to look into them.

The respective characters of the principal Reformers admirably qualified them for their work; the honest courage of *Luther*, the mild and holy spirit of *Melancthon*, the acuteness of *Zuinglius*, the clear mind and fine genius of *Calvin*, the holy wisdom of *Cranmer*, the determined boldness of *Knox*, all under the influence of divine grace, made them the worthy and suitable champions of the Reformation and, with all their faults, to this day their writings remain invaluable documents of sound theology.

It is delightful in *Calvin's* last will, made only a month before his death, to see him (while expressing his continuance in the same faith which he preached but without introducing any of those views which distinguished his system) offering up his desire to God, in terms that every Christian would concur in, 'beseeching him so to wash and cleanse me in the blood of the great Redeemer, which was shed for all poor sinners, that in his image I may appear before his face.'

The writings of the Foreign Divines were extensively translated about the time of our own Reformation; but

being printed in black letter, and now almost unprocurable—the English reader can derive but little advantage from these translations.

Of *Erasmus* it may be well to speak more particularly. Many of his devotional Treatises are valuable, and have been reprinted in this country. It has been supposed, that the use made of his Testament (which the clergy were directed to possess, and which was to be fixed in the Churches), is an evidence that our Reformers held the doctrines which Erasmus maintained against Luther. This by no means follows. In the prefatory Address of John Old it is asserted, that Erasmus, like Jerome, might both be deceived and deceive. It must be remembered, that at the time that the book was published (in 1548) few works of the Foreign Reformers had been translated into English, and few of our own Reformers had written much. Erasmus's work on the New Testament, taking into consideration his learning and reputation, was a valuable preparatory work, and was followed by others of a higher standard. ¹

¹ In this very work he clearly states the doctrine of salvation by grace. On Ephes. ii. 8, 9, he observes 'The thing is often to be rehearsed, and ought to be fixed deeply in your heart, it cometh of free grace. I say that you have obtained salvation from the destruction wherein ye were entangled; lest he should follow the error of some of the Jews, which think to be saved for observing the precepts of Moses's Law. You are indebted for your salvation to the faith whereby ye believe the gospel, and yet you may not brag of faith as though it come of yourself. Christ loved you first, and having drawn you to himself, he has given you power that you should love him again. And he it is that has freely poured into you the gift of faith, by which you should set darkness apart, and see the light of God's verity. It is wholly, therefore, to be ascribed unto God's free gift, so that no man has thereof to boast, as though it were of his own.'

Erasmus improved the plan of interpreting Scripture, by condemning the fondness of the for allegorising, and in his own Paraphrase on the Testament very much abstains from allegorical interpretation. Mr. Conybeare, after showing it contended for its limited and prudent use, remarks, 'The use and value of such a spiritual understanding of the Scriptures beyond that which is to be derived from a mere acquiescence in the outward letter affirms to be, that wheresoever it arises out of firm reasonable grounds of analogy, it contributes to strengthen the impressions made by religious truths to interest the affections more deeply and contribute in its behalf, to stimulate us to higher exertion to console us under the doubts and difficulties of Christian warfare. That these are the result and privileges of a spiritual view of the Christian scriptures and of the frame of mind which such a view acquires and entertained in singleness and sincerity of heart must produce, it cannot be questioned; that the benefits, however, are to be secured or enhanced by any thing approaching to the misinterpretation or misapplication of the sacred text, is a position untrue in itself, and on many accounts highly untrue.

Erasmus himself, however, was far from rising to the evangelical spirit of the Reformers; and his course furnishes a most instructive lesson of the truth and danger of wanting a simple and upright, a de-

In the prologue to the Romans it is said, 'Moses's sons are but deceivers, which teach that a man may and must justify himself to grace and to the favour of God, with good works, he have the spirit and true faith of Christ.' Nothing can be more evangelical and spiritual than the whole Prologue.

¹ Conybeare's Lectures, p. 225.

and devoted confession of Christ, and a readiness to suffer for his sake. The highest wisdom is to be simple, open and bold in our confession of Christ. Christian Reader ! may this grace ever be given to us from above !

The Reformers urged strongly the importance of the literal interpretation of scripture. Luther says, 'The literal sense of scripture alone is the whole foundation of faith and Christian theology.—'Allegories prove nothing, and are empty speculations ;' in this, Melancthon, Calvin, Peter Martyr, and the great body of the Reformers concurred : Calvin indeed more entirely pressed the literal interpretation, and his whole Commentary is on this plan.

We need not here attempt to draw the line farther as to the theological sentiments of the Foreign divines. As Melancthon grew in experience he became more cautious in his sentiments, as the different editions of his common-place-book prove. Yet his correspondence with Calvin, shows that he by no means held Calvin's view in that obnoxious light which many do.¹

Nor can we in this rapid sketch, enter with minuteness into the views of distinct churches. Authors in the Lutheran churches generally followed Melancthon ; and in the Reformed, Calvin ; and in the Belgic churches before Arminius, an ultra Calvinism prevailed among many.²

¹ As to Melancthon's sentiments on these views, see his Works, Vol. iv. p. 23. and Calvin's Epistles, pp. 82, 175. and Davenant against Hoard, p. 72.

² The sources of information respecting the Reformers are (1.) Their publicly acknowledged catechisms, confessions, creeds.

SECTION IV.

SUCCESSORS OF THE REFORMERS.

The Reformation was maintained by successors of a similar spirit. The chief writers for a great part of a century after that blessed event, preserve a uniformity of doctrinal statement which we do not subsequently find. Bishop Carleton says, 'The uniformity of doctrine was held in our church without disturbance, as long as those worthy Bishops lived who were employed in the Reformation.'—See his Examination of Montague's Appeal, p. 7. The Holy Scriptures reigned with just and beneficent sway over human authors, and were the ultimate referees on

defences, and replies. (2.) Their more private writings. (3.) Original Historians, such as Seckendorff, Scultetus, Sleidan, and Thuanus, for the continent; and Fox, Fuller, Burnet and Strype, for our own country. Modern historians, as Hume, Robertson, and many others can by no means be relied on for a just view of the principles of the Reformers. Of more ancient historians also it may be observed, that some like Fox, write in the true spirit of the Reformation. Take for instance his account of the origin of printing, he attributes it to the ordination of God, and enters into a religious view of its value. Robertson (a Christian divine) giving an account of the same thing, calls it in a serious historical work, 'a fortunate discovery.' Fuller is pious, quaint, and witty. Others, like Strype, Burnet, and Brandt, attain not in their own views the spirit of the Reformers, but are very valuable in their collections of original information and authentic documents. It is gratifying to see that the works of the Reformers are much more in demand than they were, and that they are now both on the continent and in our own country, reprinting on a fuller scale than hitherto. May God grant that their writings may thus accomplish a second revival of religion, similar in its effects, and more extended in its operation, and with all the advantage of the experience which we have since had of the danger of departing from their scriptural principles!

tionable topics. Many able and pious men
 led the Reformers, and that in places of
 power and influence, and thus carried on and
 led the work which had been so happily
 begun.

Turning now our views to our own country, and
 the church of England, the men of whom we speak
 were attached to its doctrines and discipline; many
 were in the highest situations; all ministered
 faithfully, and they were very nearly united in
 views of the doctrines of the gospel. This class

Archbishops Grindal, Whitgift, and Sandys,
 Willett, Bilson, Whitaker, Perkins, Bishop
 of Exeter, Preston, Reynolds, Sibbs, Hildersham,
 of Ipswich, Archbishop Usher, Bolton, Ward
 bridge, and coming still lower, will include
 Bedell, Carleton, Davenant, Hall, Morton,
 and many others of similar character who agreed
 in the same views.

Moderation of the times allowed Hildersham,
 in view of his views, attached to the doctrines, but
 not to the rites and ceremonies of the church, to
 continue to minister in them.

Writings of this age are full of gospel truths,
 displayed and applied. They are very in-
 structive and edifying, and with few exceptions, a
 remarkable uniformity of doctrine prevailed.¹ With
 powers of mind and extensive learning, they
 held the peculiarities of the Christian faith.
 The character of some of these writings

¹ Arminius arose there were no contests of any moment
 with the Papists, or those who disliked the church ceremonies.

is marked by a refinement of statement, and a multiplication of distinctions and divisions, and a subtlety of argument, instead of the more simple, experimental, and practical character of their predecessors. They seem to have been driven to this by the subtleties of papists and others who opposed them. This, however, led on to a more artificial and scholastic statement of divine truth than we find in the scriptures, and divines seemed disposed if not to go farther than divine revelation opened the way, yet, led by the departure of some from the doctrines of the Reformation, to state doctrines more guardedly, or more distinctly and explicitly, than the Sacred Volume does. Hence some began to maintain doctrines theoretically, rather than in the sweetness of holy love, and in the simplicity of faith.

Controversies sprung up in the Roman church between the Molinists and the Dominicans, similar to those which afterwards arose in the Protestant church between the Arminians and the Calvinists. Molina, in 1588, published a book on principles not dissimilar to those which Arminius or his followers afterwards maintained. The Dominicans maintained strenuously the doctrine of Augustine. Similar contests in the following century arose in the Romish church between the Jansenists and the Jesuits, and immense learning and acuteness were manifested on both sides. There have ever been discussions on these abstruse points ; nor is human ingenuity likely to solve difficulties which the scriptures have not removed, and the unhappy result has too often been that what is truly evangelical as well as what is holy, useful, and practical, is lost amid contentions on things beyond our reach.

The leading divines in Queen Elizabeth's reign must be considered as making rather a more distinct and explicit statement of Calvinistic doctrine than their predecessors. Calvin's Institutes were read in the schools by order of convocation. Indeed, an ultra Calvinism, which appears to have been maintained by some rather than the scriptural divinity of our first Reformers, led, as might be expected, to opposing statements in doctrine. With this a pertinacity on one side of adherence to, and on the other of rejection of, nonessential ceremonies grew and extended. Thus the attention of Christ's church was turned from vital truths ; and a disputatious and unchristian spirit was excited. Yet to the contentions respecting ceremonies we are indebted for two of the ablest and most scriptural defences of our ecclesiastical establishment, Whitgift's Replies to Cartwright, and Hooker's Ecclesiastical Polity. But Bishop Carleton observes, that in this time there was no difference between the Bishops and the Puritans on doctrine (there was a mutual consent on that subject) but only on discipline. He adds, ' The first disturbers of this uniformity of doctrine were Barret and Baro, in Cambridge, and after them Thomson.' This was in 1595. The University called Barret's sentiments, which were Arminian, ' divers Popish errors,' and the Lambeth Articles were framed to counteract them, and were approved by Archbishops Whitgift and Hutton. Queen Elizabeth and Cecil, with that foresight and wisdom for which they were distinguished, justly objected to these becoming part of the authorized documents of our national religion, on account of their being less moderate, and too precise and exclusive. Fuller observes respecting the Lambeth Articles, that

their testimony is an infallible evidence what was the general and received doctrine of England in that age, about the forenamed controversies.'¹

There was, however, in the Author's view, a serious evil in thus attempting to fathom the unfathomable mind of Jehovah. Where angels probably adore in silent submission, men with too little humility, and with pre-

¹ It may be well to add one or two testimonies to show how some leading men viewed the introduction of these sentiments of Baro.

Dr. Whitaker, Divinity Professor in Cambridge, soon after the first appearance of Barret's sentiments, gives this view of the case: 'The Church of England ever since the gospel was restored, has always held and embraced this opinion (the Calvinian) of election and reprobation. This, Bucer, in our University; Peter Martyr at Oxford, have professed; two eminent divines who have most abundantly watered our church with their streams in the days of King Edward; whose memories shall always be honourable among us, unless we will be most ungrateful. This opinion their auditors in both our Universities; the Bishops, Deans, and Divines, who upon the advancement of our famous Queen Elizabeth to the crown, returned either from exile, or were released from the prisons into which they had been thrust for the profession of the gospel; or saved from the hands of persecuting Bishops; those by whom our church were reformed, our religion established, popery thrust out and quite destroyed; (all which we may remember, though few of this kind be yet living) this opinion I say they themselves have held and commended to us: in this faith have they lived, and in this they died, in this they always wished that we should constantly continue.'

Dr. Samuel Ward, in a sermon to the clergy at Cambridge in 1625, says, 'This also I can truly add for a conclusion, that the universal church hath always adhered to St. Austin in these points ever since his time till now. The Church of England also from the beginning of the Reformation, and this our famous University, with all those who from thence till now have with us enjoyed the divinity chair, if we except one Foreign Frenchman (viz. Peter Baro), have likewise constantly adhered to him.'

There are some modifying considerations however to be connected with such statements. The Church of England, as far as it regards her authorized documents, is silent on many doctrines on which her private members have said much; and with great wisdom and charity forbears authoritatively to fix many points on which pious men differ.

sumptuous curiosity, have either opposed or evaded His plain declaration, or not stopping in the words of scripture, scrutinized the mind and character of the only wise God. How just was Carleton's view of this. 'In the matter of predestination I have ever been fearful to meddle; it is one of the greatest and deepest of God's mysteries. We are with reverence to wonder, and with faith and humility to follow that which God has revealed in this point, and there to stay.' This evil is traced to its source, Job xi. 7—12. Col. ii. 18. Dr. Owen excellently remarks on the purpose of God, 'We know it not, we cannot know it. It is not our duty to know it. The knowledge of it is not proposed as of any use to us. Yes, it is our sin to inquire any thing into it. It may indeed seem to some like the tree of knowledge of good and evil, to be pleasant to the eyes and a tree to be desired to make one wise (as all secret forbidden things seem to carnal minds), but men can gather no fruit on it but death.'¹

The Irish Articles agreed upon in 1615, comprehend the Lambeth Articles, but contain a much fuller view of doctrine. They were never expressly revoked, though the Irish clergy now only have to testify their approval of the thirty-nine Articles of the Anglican church.² For the Author's part he confesses that he is afraid lest those clear statements, which in order to make things distinct and meet the sophistries of learned objectors, express doctrines more perspicuously than the Holy Scriptures do, should fall under that

¹ Owen on the Spirit, folio, p. 523.

² The Articles may be found in Neal's History of the Puritans. They were drawn up by Usher.

censure, the Lord knoweth the thoughts (or reasons) of the wise that they are vain.

On the Continent similar discussions arose. It originated mainly with Arminius, who was a pupil of Beza's, and at one time approved of his Calvin's views. About the year 1600, he was requested to write a confutation of some men at Delft who opposed Calvinistic views, and in taking to do it, he embraced the opinions which he intended to confute.¹

The leading position of Arminius is, that man is elect to salvation from foreseen faith and holiness, but it is with many modifications, and conceding that man could not by his natural ability believe. The leading position of Calvinists is, that men are not saved by works, but unto faith and holiness.² The numerous modifications and ramifications of these positions have occasioned all that strife which has arisen on this subject. It will be obvious that the excess of one system is Antinomianism, and the other, Pelagianism; but it would not be difficult to show that either position might be so guarded and qualified in itself or by other parallel doctrines, that on the one hand fully to provide for salvation by works, and on the other to secure man's responsibility, th

on the one side, or Womock's Calvinist's Cabinet Unlocked on the other, are to be depended on) most unscriptural statements were made. It is, however, very easy so to take a passage from the context of any controversial writing as to give it a most objectionable character, when in its connexion it was perhaps greatly modified.

The most serious evil of Arminius' views is their tendency to deface and injure the freeness, and fulness, and riches of divine grace, and to exalt the powers of man ; a tendency which was seen in the retrograde course of many who have adopted his sentiments.

There are serious evils also in pushing Calvinistic views to an extreme. Speaking favourably of Dr. Ames's work against Grevinchovius, Usher still observes, ' If in seeking to make that straight which was crooked in the Arminian's opinion he hath bended it too far the contrary way, and inclined too much upon the other extremity, it is a thing which in the heat of disputation hath befallen many worthy men before him.'—Usher's Letters, p. 50.

An adequate sense of our fallen, and ruined, guilty, and depraved state, lies at the very root of all this controversy. Let this be deeply felt, let the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and our just desert of everlasting punishment through sin, be adequately perceived, and there will be little difficulty in other things. The only wonder will be that condemnation is not final and universal ; and that, for any human being, there should be riches of grace to pardon, save, and for ever bless. The ruin of any will be easily resolvable into an equity, infinitely wise and holy in the Sovereign Ruler of all worlds ; and the salvation of any into the unsearchable riches of divine grace.

In the Author's own view, as the reader will have seen, the position that we are elect unto holiness, is more scriptural (Ephes. i. 4. 2 Thes. ii. 13, 14. 1 Pet. i. 1, 2.) and more agreeable to the views of the Reformers and of the Church of England, and less liable to abuse, and more accordant with those dispositions which it is the great design of the gospel to produce; but he is satisfied that the difference may be made merely verbal, and, if salvation by grace be held, should never separate Christians. ¹

¹ Bishop Hall's sentiments on Arminius are worth quoting. They are contained in a letter to Mr. Jonas Reigesbergius: 'If I might challenge ought in that your acute and learned Arminius, I would thus solicit and conjure him: Alas, that so wise a man should not know the worth of peace; that so noble a son of the Church should not be brought to light without ripping the womb of his mother! What mean these subtle novelties? If they make thee famous and the Church miserable, who shall gain by them? Is singularity so precious that it should cost no less than the safety and quiet of our common mother. If it be truth thou affectest; what alone? Could never any eyes but thine be blessed with this object? Where hath that sacred verity hid herself thus long from her careful inquisitors, that she now first shows her head to thee unsought? Has the gospel shined thus long and bright, and left some corners unseen? Away with all new truths, fair and plausible they may be, sound they cannot: some may admire thee for them; none shall bless thee. But grant that some of these are no less true than nice points: what do these unseasonable crotchets and quavers trouble the harmonious plain songs of our peace? Some quiet error may be better than some unruly truth. Who binds us to speak all we think? So the Church may be still, would God thou wert wise alone. Did not our adversaries quarrel enough before; at our quarrels were they not rich enough with our spoils? By the dear name of our common parents, what meanest thou, Arminius? Whither tend these new raised dissensions? Who shall thrive by them, but they which insult upon us, and rise by the fall of truth? Who shall be undone but thy brethren? By that most precious and bloody ransom of our Saviour, and by that awful appearance we shall make before the glorious tribunal of the Son of God, remember thyself and the poor distracted limbs of the Church. Let not those excellent parts wherewith God hath furnished thee, lie in the narrow way, and cause any weak one either to fall, or stumble, or err. For God's sake, either say nothing, or

Arminius distinctly retained the all-essential Christian doctrine, justification by faith; and, in other respects, held the doctrines of grace so clearly, that he would, by some modern Writers, have been charged with Calvinism. The study of his works might be very useful to some who have, under that name, opposed evangelical religion.¹

His change of sentiment, however, led to great discussions. Men too readily thought the whole essentials of religion were at issue, and earnestly contended for their own particular views, as Bishop Hall observes: 'Men esteem opinions, because their own—What they have undertaken must be true; victory is sought for, not satisfaction; victory of the author, not of the

the same. How many great wits have sought no bye-paths, and now are happy with their fellows? Let it be no disparagement to go with many to heaven.'

He speaks of the learned and worthy Gomarus, as not silent in so main a cause—but says, 'Too many contend; not entreat: multitude of suitors is commonly powerful, how much more in just motions.' Hall's Works, vii. 273.

¹ Arminius says, 'I believe that sinners are accounted righteous solely by the obedience of Christ, and that the righteousness of Christ is the only meritorious cause on account of which God pardons the sins of believers, and reckons them as righteous as if they had perfectly fulfilled the law. But since God imputes the righteousness of Christ to none except believers, I conclude that in this sense it may be well and properly said, To a man who believes, faith is from grace imputed for righteousness, since God hath set forth Jesus Christ his Son to be a judgment-seat of grace, or a propitiation through faith in his blood.' He goes on to state, that he should not hesitate to sign Calvin's statements on this subject.¹ In his Theses, on Faith, he states that the Holy Spirit is the Author of Faith; and, on justification, he says, '*Justificatio est actio Dei judicis justa et gratiosa, quâ de throno gratiæ et misericordiæ hominem peccatorem sed fidelem propter Christum, Christique obedientiam et justitiam a peccatis absolvit, et justum censit, ad justificati salutem et justitiæ gratiæque divinæ gloriam.*'

¹ See *Opera*, Franckfort, 1635, p. 102 and 316.

cause. He is a rare man that knows to yield, as well as to argue.'

The dispute on this subject is not like that between Augustine and the Pelagians, on sanctification; and Luther and the Romanists, on Justification; where the difference was much more manifestly between the servants of Christ and the enemies of Christ. We cannot reasonably doubt the real religion of very many on both sides, in this dispute. The points in controversy are far more subtle, and often removed above the field of scripture, and, therefore, not only much more difficult of a right decision, but often beyond the possibility of our knowledge; and still, and probably ever will, leave the Church of God, while on earth, divided in sentiment. Generally speaking, the Christian must heartily have joined Augustine and Luther: the Christian may remain on one side or the other in this case; and probably many of these points will not be settled, till the light of glory burst upon us; and, to their mutual surprize, Arminius and Gomarus, and Laud and Prynne, seeing their own infirmities, will rejoice together in magnifying one Saviour through eternity. Sure we are, however, that then the burden of the song will not be any expression leading to the thought of man's having saved himself; but *salvation* will be wholly ascribed to God and the Lamb for ever.

The great turning point of the Arminian controversy, among the pious, is not so revealed in the scriptures, as to be resolvable by human intellect; nor is it, where it refers to the Divine Being, and His proceedings, of the practical moment some think. This mystery and depth of the divine judgments is not pleasing to the carnal mind, but it is profitable to

a humble spirit. The extreme views of each side are pleasing enough to the natural man : whether it be of resolving all into an absolute necessity, with the Stoics and Mahomedans ; or into faith and good works, wrought by man as the cause of our election. There are no mysteries here, but neither are scriptural.

Disputes increased till it was thought desirable by the authorities in Belgium, to convene a Synod at Dort. This was held in 1618 and 1619 ; and the decrees of the Synod contain a very able, clear, and distinct statement of Calvinistic views. They are all worth attentive study. Nothing can be more unfair than Tilenus' abridgement of them, adopted by Heylin, Bishops Womock, and Tomline.¹ The acts at large, with the sentiments of the divines from different places appended to them, will amply repay the perusal. Mr. Scott translated but a small part of the whole volume, and has too much considered the history of the preceding events given by him, as impartial.

It is now generally agreed that such statements of doctrine are far too minute and particular and detailed, to be wisely adopted as the general standard of any Church of Christ.² A book was published

¹ Womock's *Arcana*, in which he quotes expressions from the private writings of Calvinists, to support Tilenus' unfair Abridgement, is a most unjustifiable mode of defence. Because private writers have said rash things, are the publicly-agreed-upon sentiments to have attached to them every thing that those rash expressions might justify? What Church could stand this? Bishop Hall justly says, ' It will be requisite to a peaceable moderation that we should give to every opinion his own due extent ; not resting private men's conceits upon public churches, nor fathering single fancies upon a community.' See Works, Vol. vii. p. 457.

² The Synod of Dort cannot be considered as an assembly for the free discussion of the controversy. The general sentiments of the reformed Churches (not including the Lutheran), were all on one side ; the Remonstrants were rather judged, than judges ; and the

Synod. See their Letters, at the end of Hale's *Remains*. Bishop Hall decidedly approved canons, and says, 'I shall live and die in the sense of that reverend Synod ; and do confidently avow that those other opinions cannot stand with the doctrine of the Church of England.'

But the course of treatment adopted against the nonconformists, with the great talents and abilities of them, such as Grotius, Episcopius, Curcellæus, Limborch ; and, must we not add, the agreement of their doctrines to the natural intellect, if not the unconverted heart, all tended to spread their views very widely, and prepared for that falling away

minds of the divines assembled, even those of the foreign countries were too much made up to yield to opposing views any thing that was essential in their own sentiments. But it was not an unprofitable assembly. It had the good effect of stating in a plain way that holy men thought the most unexceptionable, true doctrine which Calvinists in general adopt, and of clearing from many justly exceptionable opinions, which some were entertained. Allowing that some of the proceedings towards

the doctrines of the Reformation which was more distinctly marked in the following age.

If we may judge from the accounts before us, the learned GROTIUS, and those who acted with him, were severely treated. Severity as usual failed of its end. But we cannot here enter into the history of the times, or consider whether provocations on one side, may not have occasioned severities on the other. The death-bed of Grotius was Christian. His Defence of the truth of the Christian religion, and of the atonement are still valuable works. But his expositions explain away the doctrines of the Bible, and he made sacrifices and admissions to opposite parties, Papists and Socinians, which truth does not justify, and which, under the sanction of his name, gained access, and helped to bring on a lamentable and an extensive departure from the truth.¹

Mr. Conybeare points out that Grotius far too exclusively confined his interpretation to the immediate History of the Jews. Cocceius, on the other hand, went to the opposite extreme of attaching a spiritual sense to every part of scripture. Vitringa, Lampe, and Venema, have beautifully shown that with talent, wisdom, and piety a happy use may be made of this spiritual interpretation : though they

¹ The character of Grotius involved as it was in the controversies of the day has been variously represented, by different sides. Baxter's *Grotian Religion discovered*, was replied to by Bramhall and Womack, Dr. Owen has some remarks on his *Annotations*. See his *Works*, Vol. ix. p. 291. Brandt's *History of the Reformation*, and his *Life* by Buvigny should also be consulted. Leydecker's *Work* is in Dutch. Dr. Owen says, that his *Annotations* on the whole Bible throughout, wherein his expositions are given, do for the most part fall in with those of the Socinians, and oftentimes consist in the very words of Socinus and Smalcus. Vol. viii. p. 10.

have been considered as too much attached to the system of Cocceius.

Some of the successors of the Remonstrants gradually verged to the Socinian scheme, and found a champion in the well-known Le Clere.¹ 'The younger Turretin, Wytttenbach, Zimmerman, and Werenfels all afford examples of the more restricted and cautious (perhaps occasionally too cautious) admission of the secondary and spiritual sense.'

In our own country, while Archbishop Abbot (whose character we cannot but think has been misrepresented by Clarendon,) ² lived, peace was preserved in our own church. Mr. Onslow says, 'He used a moderation in ecclesiastical discipline, which if it had been followed by his successor, the ruin that soon after fell upon the church might very likely have been prevented.' He was succeeded by the unhappy Laud. It is difficult even at this day to speak of this prelate without prejudice. To read one side, we might think he was not inferior to Cyprian, a venerable father and martyr; to read another, that he was a Papist and a tyrant. Probably neither Prynne's *Breviat* and *Canterbury's Doom* on one side; nor Heylin's, nor Wharton's account of his *Life and Troubles*, nor the more recent work of Lawson, on the other, separately give a correct view. The following remarks of Gilpin, contrasting his proceedings with those of Cranmer, suggest some important considerations as to his conduct.

¹ See Conybeare, pp. 273, 274.

² See Vol. i. p. 81, and compare it with Speaker Onslow's account in Russell's *Life of Abbott*, as quoted by Chalmers. Clarendon ought to be compared with Whitelocke and Baxter.

Both were good men, both were equally zealous for religion, and both were engaged in the work of the Reformation.—While Cranmer pursued his with caution and temper, Laud, in the violence of his integrity (for he was certainly a well-meaning man) making allowances, neither for men nor opinions, was determined to carry all before him. The consequence was, that he did nothing which he attempted, while Cranmer did every thing. And it is probable, that if Henry had chosen such an instrument as Laud, he would have miscarried in his point: while Charles, with such a primate as Cranmer, would either have been successful in his schemes, or at least have avoided the fatal consequences that ensued.'

Happily man is not the final judge of any of his fellow-creatures. Indeed, our subject does not oblige us to enter at large into the personal character of the Archbishop. His Diary, published at length by Wharton, and his Devotions show his conscientiousness and sincerity, though with some tincture of superstition; and his Conference with Fisher manifested both his disposition, and his ability against the Romanists; but we find not the clear statements of evangelical truth, which abound in the writings of the Reformers. If his measures were harsh, and sometimes excited the unhappy spirit of the times, and aggravated rather than alleviated the evil; it must also be added, that the proceedings against him, by which he lost his life, were severe and oppressive, and like other harsh and retaliatory measures only strengthened the cause which they designed to overthrow: when will Christians learn not to fight with carnal weapons; and that the Church triumphs by the gospel of love, and not by the law of severity? Have we not, how-

ever, cause to be thankful to God, that Laud, as he had not Cranmer's distinct evangelical views, had not also his political wisdom ? There seems at least some reason for the fear that we might in that case have lost some of the all-important principles of the Reformation ?

It is asserted by Prynne, in his *Canterbury's Doom*, that Laud on his trial denied that he meant to bring in Arminianism ; and his own account of his trial leads to the idea that he wished to escape the charge of favouring Arminianism. (See pp. 364, 369.) But considerable allowance must be made for the extreme odium in which Arminian sentiments were then held.

The deputation to the Synod of Dort, and the conduct of the English Divines there, show that the doctrines of Arminius were then considered as novelties. The publications of the Foreign Divines, Arminius, and Episcopius, Grotius, and Limborch soon seem to have produced a great change, not only in their own but also in other countries, and a change truly injurious as far as it tended to weaken scriptural statements of the doctrines of grace.

Some observations will now be added on individual writers. Richard Sibbs is an excellent author of these days. His 'Bruised Reed' and 'Soul's Conflict' were published by himself; but many of his works were published from notes taken while he was preaching. He died about 1635. It is to be regretted that his works have never been wholly collected and published, with such corrections or notes as might be requisite. They are full of evangelical and consolatory statement, and yet very holy and practical, and are deservedly favourite works with pious and devout minds.

There is another character that is specially worthy of our attention, both for the value of his writings, and the wise and holy part which he took, we mean Archbishop USHER, who died in 1656. He was one of the most wonderful men of that wonderful age, and is not unjustly styled by Dr. Johnson, ‘the great luminary of the Irish church.’ The praise which he received from the most learned men of the age was of the highest character, and the University of Oxford in 1644, styled him ‘the most skilful of primitive antiquity, the unanswerable defender of the orthodox religion.’ He had read ALL the Fathers. His loyalty in the most trying scenes was proved to the uttermost: while he freely discharged his conscience in reproving the sins of the royal party, and testifying against injurious measures pursued, yet he adhered to the king amid all his trials.

It is to be regretted that his writings have not yet been collected together. They contain an invaluable mass of historical and ecclesiastical information, and of controversial and practical divinity. Many remain only in manuscript. His Answer to the Jesuit is still one of the best pieces against Romanism; his Body of Divinity, though never revised by him, is full of valuable theology; his sermons are plain, evangelical, and spiritual. The doctrinal views of Usher may be seen in the Irish Articles, which were prepared by him. Yet he distinctly held general redemption, and his observations on that point are very judicious.¹

¹ There are two letters on this subject in his life by Dr. Parr—The Archbishop, after speaking of the all-sufficient satisfaction of Christ made for the sins of the whole world, goes on—‘We must in the matter of our redemption, carefully put a distinction between

monuments of sanctified learning, and a treasury of instruction on the most difficult subject of prophecy, though to some parts of his views on that deep and mysterious part of Scripture there have been serious objections. He first laid open the method of the Book of Revelation, and led the way to that system of interpretation which in the main has been since adopted by the generality of Protestant Commentators.¹ He purposely abstained from any public statement that might appear to favour either the remonstrant, or contra remonstrant views.²

Bishop Taylor is a writer of the first-rate powers, with a fine imagination, and much devotion, holiness, and humility. Yet he is too ascetic, and has too little of the good tidings of the gospel. Bishop Heber notices his defence of Episcopacy and the Liturgy as very powerful; his practical and devotional writings call forth his chief powers, and will ever make him acceptable to the pious mind. He fell into something of Pelagian errors, and, like Warburton, did not consider the immortality of the soul revealed to the Patriarchs. It is also to be regretted that prayers for

¹ Vitringa ably discusses and refutes some of Mede's interpretations; see also Dean Woodhouse.

² He thus describes justification—'An absolution or remission of sins by the only merits and satisfaction of Christ accepted for us, and imputed to us, an acquitting and cancelling of all bonds and obligations of transgression for Christ's sake, through the only merits of his death, passion, and shedding of his blood. For he that has right to Christ, has right in Christ to be partaker of his righteousness, and of whatsoever satisfaction he has undergone for the sins of mankind; whereby he is justified, that is, acquit before God of the guilt of sin, and of the punishment, according to the law due for the same. (2 Cor. v. 21. Rom. v. 19.)' He afterwards scripturally shows the connexion between justification and sanctification.

¹ See Works, p. 155.

the dead have received countenance from some passages in his writings.

Many excellent divines on the continent, such as Zanchius, Junius, Pareus, Piscator, Spanheim, Amesius, &c.; and others in our own country, Greenham, Bishops Babington, Cowper, Andrews, &c.; Hieron, Downname, Whateley, &c. lived in this period. We pretend not to know all their writings, nor to defend all we do know; but have seen enough to be satisfied that much instruction is to be derived from them.

The cultivation and advance of human learning was very great. The gigantic powers and talents, and extended learning, of such men as Bishops Andrews, Sanderson and Taylor, Drs. Jackson, John Smith, &c. (men who, with vast research, eloquence and force of reasoning, maintained many great truths of Christianity, but, as we conceive, took, and defended as scriptural, a lower standing of evangelical doctrine than their predecessors) made this a distinguished era.¹ The works published manifest an extraordinary extent of learning. Our best Polyglot, by Walton, was prepared toward the close of this period, and published shortly after the Restoration. But with this growth of learning and refinement of doctrine, on

¹ Bishop Heber speaking of Hooker, Taylor, and Barrow, thus distinguishes them: 'Of such a triumvirate, who shall settle the pre-eminence? Yet it may perhaps be not far from the truth to observe, that Hooker claims the foremost rank in sustained and classic dignity of style, in political and pragmatical wisdom; that to Barrow the praise must be assigned of the closest and clearest views, and of a taste the most controlled and chastened; but that in imagination, in interest, in that which more properly and exclusively deserves the name of genius, Taylor is to be placed before either. The first awes most, the second convinces most, the third delights and persuades most.' We would only add, Hooker was most correct in doctrine, Barrow most full in practical instruction, and Taylor most rich in devotional composition.

from deriving much practical good, he there adds: 'The doctrines which he (M. Henry) maintains are those of the Church of England, and of the whole body of the Reformed Church; and it is delightful to see and feel how large and spacious is the territory thus common to all Christians. It is the joy of every Christian heart to know that there are in all denominations which hold the head, even our Saviour Christ, sincere, and faithful, and beloved brethren; and that the time will soon arrive when those lesser things, which have too long served to keep us asunder, shall be done away, and we shall dwell in our Saviour's presence for ever.'

When the errors of Popery had been exposed, and that whole system of corruption was laid aside, and a new system had to be established, there arose considerable differences of opinion about lesser things, which debates soon magnified and increased.

In the reign of Edward the Sixth, Bishop Hooper even did not like to wear the ordinary episcopal habits. In Queen Mary's reign, while divine grace was so eminently displayed in the maintenance of essential truths, under the very fires of persecution, in the same period the corruption of the heart was displayed in contentions about things indifferent. But in the main, it may be said of those who suffered unto death, that they agreed in doctrine and in a sweet spirit of love. Some of the exiles in Queen Mary's reign, driven to the continent by persecution, and seeing there that the Reformed Churches had not retained many of the ceremonies and rites which had been continued in England, conceived a dislike for them. Great contentions arose about them. The troubles of Frankfort (published in 1575, by one who had been present at *them*) contains an affecting account of their differences.

Who can but mark the subtilty and malice of the great adversary, when he prevailed so far, that exiles for Christ, in a foreign land, who agreed in all the essentials of religion, were induced eagerly to contend about mere circumstantialials?

These contentions did not cease on their return. Many wished for what they considered a more complete reformation. For a considerable time, the government dispensed with an entire conformity in various excellent ministers (such as Fox and Coverdale), who had either suffered in Queen Mary's days, or were eminent for talents and learning.

There were others more averse to the rites and forms of the Church, beginning with Simpson and Humphries, and followed by Cartwright, Travers, and others, who yet ministered in the Church. There seemed to be no idea abroad yet of distinct congregations, or bodies of Christians separate from a National Church. Even Brown, the founder of the Brownists, died in the communion of the Church.

It seems astonishing that wise and holy men should have made divisions about things of so little real moment. If it be replied, it may seem equally astonishing that trifles were so peremptorily insisted on, we allow that there is weight in such a reply; yet not so much weight as some may think. The powers that be, in the church as well as in the state, have a right to dictate; and trifles, though insignificant in themselves, may be as important particles to the wholeness of a system, as the taches were to the building of the tabernacle. Of course the power of dictation, on one side, and the obligation of submission on the other, is bounded by conscience; only there are trivial points, not exactly squaring with every man's con-

science, and which are not plainly against conscience, which must be allowed on the ground of Christian forbearance: else how is any church to stand? Unless we admit the possibility of a perfect church, and of perfectly enlightened consciences in all the several members of that church, its very perfections, by a distortion of vision not uncommon, may be considered imperfections.

The actual state of the Church may furnish a reason for what would otherwise seem inexplicable. The great mass of the nation, both ministers and laity, had hardly yet escaped from Popery, and the Papists were still every where very numerous.¹ It was important for government, which must regard the whole body of subjects, not to give needless offence, by unnecessary alterations. Consider again the extreme difficulty of any human plan of instruction and worship free from all exceptions. It is said that when some complained to Lord Burleigh of the Liturgy, and stated that they only wished its amendment, not its removal, he asked them to make a better in the place of it; one class of the complainants formed a new one, like that of Geneva; another altered the new one in six hundred particulars; a third quarrelling at the alteration, proposed a new model; and a fourth dissented from all. How impossible is it to meet the wishes of all minds! How needful, if we would have Christian union and love, to bear with one another! Archbishop Tillotson mentions another case, where one congregation divided into thirty on different views of the two sacraments.²

¹ Bishop Madox's Vindication ably shows this.

² See his Life, p. 332.

Dr. Chalmers, speaking of Knox, has noticed one mistake common to all theologians of all denominations in that day, 'that Christianity could not flourish, say that it could not exist save in the one frame work of one certain and defined ecclesiastical constitution; and hence with us that there would be no light and efficacy in the ministrations of the gospel, unless they were conducted according to the forms, and in the strict model and framework of the Presbytery.' The same thing was seen among Episcopalians. There has now surely, been ample experience in the history of the church, to raise us above this littleness of the small mind to those higher regions which show us the true character and glory of the Christian church.

In the earlier part of this time there was no difference in doctrine. Bridges, the Dean of Salisbury, in a defence of the Establishment, published in 1567, after speaking of the deliverance of the nation from the great enemy Popery, and the differences then arising among Protestants, respecting those differences says, 'The controversies between the common adversaries (the Papists) and us, are *pro aris et focis*, for matters, and that capital matters, of the substance and life of our Christian religion; not trifles as some new men would bear the people in hand. And therefore our adversaries in matters of religion are incensed against us with mortal or rather with immortal hatred. Whereas the controversies betwixt us and our brethren, are matters, or rather as they call them, but manners and forms of the church regiment.' The main standards of faith in these last were the same. He calls them afterwards 'mine own dear brethren in Christ, and her majesty's loyal and loving subjects.' Archbishop Hutton in 1604, observed in a letter to Lord Cran-

of Christ is not of this world, that he calls upon us to honour the king, and obey those in authority, that the weapons of Christians are not carnal but spiritual, and that the church gains its victories, not by carnal weapons, but by ardent prayer, lively faith, holy love, and patient suffering. There were others again, who were mere hypocrites and wild enthusiasts ; and others, who, under pretence of religion sought only their own temporary wealth and aggrandizement. Thus a profession of, and alas real, religion became most unhappily associated with rebellion, and the mischief has been immense. Satan gained a great advantage to raise a strong disgust against all religion. There were also among those who disliked the Church of England, many men of a bad and disloyal spirit.

Dr. Buchanan says ‘ By the association of **SANCTITY** with the spirit of republicanism and rebellion during the usurpation of Cromwell, that holiness of life which was enjoined by our Saviour, became a subject of scorn or contempt. The people passed over from one error to the contrary extreme. The bow was bent till the spring was broken, and it has never been rightly strung again. The nation being emancipated from a yoke which assumed a religious name, considered religion as its enemy ; and thus the spiritual faith of Christ became connected with fanaticism or enthusiasm, and so it has remained in a great measure to this day. Political dissention, the most powerful engine in a free nation, has tended to keep this prejudice alive.’

We would here, in the spirit of love, suggest to Christians of every denomination, the inquiry whether experience does not manifest that a political spirit

always siding against the powers that be, is most generally, if not invariably, accompanied with a low ebb of vital religion? The blessed Saviour cheerfully paid a tribute, unjustly demanded, that he might not offend. O that we all more rose to that high and dignified superiority of mind which led him to live in an atmosphere far above the things of this world.

It was not particular views of religion or discipline that wholly guided the political conduct of men. Generally, however, churchmen were on the King's side, and non-conformists on that of the Parliament, but there were exceptions. Calvinists and Arminians were on both sides without distinction. If there were many Calvinists for the commonwealth, many were also strenuously for the king, and some of the most decided Arminians, such as John Goodwin and Hugh Peters, went the farthest lengths in disloyalty even openly to justify the atrocious murder of their king. It was painful to see this in Goodwin, whose learning was considerable, and whose piety, notwithstanding we cannot but object to both his political and religious views, we should be sorry to question. His *Redemption Redeemed*, is perhaps as powerful a plea for Arminian views, as has been published. It was also ably answered by Kendal, Owen, and others.

But many of the Puritans were eminently devout. They search the innermost conscience, rouse the careless, proclaim the free grace of the gospel and the righteousness of the Redeemer, and call to eminent holiness and devotedness.

Admitting that there was much real religion in these troublous times, and in many cases in its highest degree, there was yet a great and serious draw back

in the aggravated hypocrisy of some, the political spirit, the disputatious and controversial character, and the arbitrary measures of others. Baxter acknowledges that many unjustifiable things were done by the parliament and the ministers.¹

In the preface to his *Golden Grove*, published during the rebellion, after speaking highly of the former state of religion, Bishop J. Taylor says, 'But now instead of the excellency of condition and constitution of religion, the people are fallen under the harrows and saws of impertinent and ignorant preachers, who think all religion is a sermon, and all sermons ought to be libels against truth and old governors.'

Many excellent episcopal ministers, such as Bishop Taylor, Hales, Walton, &c. suffered harsh and severe treatment from the government of the commonwealth, and all the influence of Dr. Owen, Selden, and others, could not restrain cruelties and injustice from violent parliamentary commissioners.² Yet was there still among those who did not conform to the Church of England, those who were peaceable, loyal, and attached to monarchy; and the evils of the commonwealth at least seem to have led almost all to value the inestimable benefits of a limited monarchy like our own.

¹ See his *Life*, p. 39.

² Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*, should be read along with Calamy's work on the other side. There is a remarkable account in Twell's *Life of Pocock*, prefixed to his works, of the harsh proceedings of the Commissioners against him, and the firm and successful interference of Dr. Owen in his behalf. It displays very much the character of the times. With how little reason and consistency could those who exercised these severities when they had power, complain under subsequent severities!

And after making, as we must make, the just abatements which facts call for, there was in the midst of these days a class of divines, whose writings remain imperishable monuments of sanctified talent, learning, and piety, and who have been followed by others down to our own days. No one can well read the practical writings of such Scotch Presbyterians, as Guthrie and Dickson; or the English Puritans, Cartwright and Burroughs; or the Independents, Owen and Goodwin; or the Nonconformists, Baxter, Manton, Bates, Howe, Flavel, Charnock, and the once despised Bunyan; or more recent writers, as Henry, Grove, Earl, Grosvenor, and Bennet, without edification, and in their works are some of the finest specimens of the workings of pious and powerful minds on the subject of religion in our language. In general, in their writings, there is little interference with worldly politics, and but little, comparatively, with church government. Those living in the rebellion were too much carried away by it, but in many there was much separation from the world, great integrity, indefatigable industry, and a high toned spirit of piety and devotion. Some were men of great learning. They clearly state the doctrines of the gospel and guard them (some perhaps too much) on every side; they minutely discriminate between the sincere and the hypocrite; they were acquainted thoroughly with the workings of the human heart, and with the Holy Scriptures; their expositions of which are full of valuable matter. When thrown out of the church and kept by an unhappy policy in silence, they turned their leisure to the best advantage in multiplying publications chiefly on practical devotion.

The character of the age was more scholastic than

that of the Reformation, and in this view not so scriptural. The principles of the Reformers were tried out and proved at the very stake: there was not equal distinctness, but there was more simplicity and unction.

A multiplication of distinctions and divisions in their discourses was a fault of the successors of the Reformers, and most of the earlier authors of whom we now speak fell into this fault, and multiplied divisions almost without end. Still their writings not only retarded the decline of religion, but maintained a spirit of deep piety which they spread in America as well as in this country.

Having given these general views of the character of this class of Divines, we will now enter more into particular points of controversy.

The just principles of **TOLERATION** were first fairly opened and discussed in these times, though they cannot be said to have been established till we come to the next period. The Fathers of the Christian church, for the first 300 years, perpetually assert indeed that no one should be compelled to a profession of faith;¹ but on the rise of popery, Christians seem to have lost sight of the right of private judgment, and to have considered uniformity and unreserved and entire submission to authority in religion requisite. Luther indeed maintained principles of toleration;² but in general the Protestants, though just delivered themselves from papal tyranny, had not right views of toleration. Beza published a book on the punishing of heretics. The Puritans and the Presbyterians equally thought

¹ See Barlow's *Cases of Conscience*, p. 81—89.

² See Milner, Vol. v. p. 500.

coercion in religion proper. The determined spirit of intolerance is quite a blot on some writers. The excellent Rutherford published in 1640 a 4to volume of 400 pages, intitled, 'Free Disputations against pretended liberty of Conscience;' and Edwards another Treatise in 1647, intitled, 'The casting down of the last and strongest hold of Satan, or a Treatise against Toleration.' Bastwick's Utter Routing of the whole Army of Independents in 1646 holds similar views. These very publications, however, show that Toleration was then making progress. In fact the Brownists, the Dutch Arminians, and the Baptists, seem to have led the way to better views. In 1644, and the following years, John Goodwin, published just and important sentiments on this subject.

The ordinance of parliament in 1645, for establishing the Directory, shows the arbitrary spirit of the Presbyterians then in authority. The Prayer Book was not to be used even in private places and families, under penalties of fines and imprisonment. How soon they trod in the steps of those against whose steps they had risen—how little was real Toleration known by those pretending to superior religion¹—and how justly did Milton feel his indignation roused by such proceedings.²

¹ See Neale's History of Puritans, Vol. iii. p. 151. Edition, 1822.

² Boyle in a letter dated in 1646, says, 'The parliament is now upon an ordinance for the punishment of many of these supposed errors; but belief of their contrary truths is confessedly a work of Divine Revelation; why a man should be hanged because it has not yet pleased God to give him his Spirit, I confess I am yet to understand. Certainly to think by a halter to give new light to the understanding, or by the tortures of the body to heal the errors of the mind, seems to me like the applying a plaister to the heel to cure a wound in the head: it does not work on the seat of the disease.—See Birch's Life of Boyle, p. 63.

Bishop Taylor, in 1647, ably took up this subject in his liberty of prophesying, as did Dr. Owen in 1649, in an appendix to a sermon; and gradually those better principles spread and prevailed, to which we owe so much of our present religious liberty and national prosperity, and comparatively few of those evils which were anticipated even by good men have arisen.

How little has intolerance done, even when most successful, for the real advantage of the intolerant church. Suppose such a church puts down all opposition, what is it but gaining an unrestrained liberty to be worldly, careless, irreligious and ignorant? A deathlike sleep comes upon such a church; the glory of its best days are departed; it produces no more its giant divines; it suffers itself more than it inflicts, and multitudes of souls perish through the negligence which its very success has procured.

The trials and speeches of the Regicides exhibit an astonishing compound of profession of religion, self-conceit, arrogance, and ignorance. But to attempt to charge their guilt upon even the Puritan religion, is as absurd as to charge the Reformation with the crimes of the men of Munster. As there always have been hypocrites on the one hand, so on the other there have always been wild enthusiasts, who have disgraced all religion.¹ As Buchanan remarks, 'Fanaticism proves nothing against religion. It is one of its diseases; and implies no more that there is no such thing as religion, than madness that there is no reason, or

¹ Edward's Gangræna published in 1646, gives a horrible picture of the state of the Sects in that time. He was a rigid Presbyterian, and very bitter against those who differed from that system. His statements cannot therefore be trusted.

temper that there is no health.' God permits such things to be a stumbling block to those who desire it, that they may have a plausible excuse for infidelity and irreligion, and manifest that inward hatred which they bear to religion itself. Can any side consent to abide by the consequences of an opponent's giving the faults of individuals on that side as the character of the class? Where would be every class if this partial rule were to be our criterion?

Various attempts have been made for uniting the dissenters and the church of England in one communion without success. The Hampton Court Conference was held for this purpose in 1603,¹ and the Savoy Conference in 1661.²

On the accession of William III. measures were taken for effecting a comprehension with dissenters, both by the king, the parliament, and the convocation.³ Political views, and dissensions, and remaining suspicions, were the main impediments to the accomplishment of this noble measure, and thus the good men who from time to time projected it, were unable to effect one of the most desirable and apparently at these times practicable plans for uniting the great body of dissenters in the communion of one church. We say apparently practicable, and perhaps even so use too strong a term. For who can look back

¹ See Barlow's Account preserved in the Phœnix, Vol. II. p. 139.

² The particulars of this were given in various Tracts published at the time, collected in one volume, intitled, the History of Non-conformity. See also Collier's Ecclesiastical History, Vol. II. p. 878—886.

³ An account is given of these in Nicholl's Defence of the Church of England, Calamy's Life of Baxter, Birch's Life of Tillotson, and several Pamphlets published on the occasion, as Vox Cleri, Vox Regis et Regni, and Answers.

and fix his eye on any era, and say, this was a millennial day in the church, when Rom. xiv. and xv. were clearly understood by both parties, and were practically embodied in their spirit? Until that era, however disunion may and must be lamented, the evil will remain: when shall it be for ever lost in the blessed reign of perfect knowledge and perfect love?'

¹ My friend Mr. Budd's remarks here so entirely concur with my own views, that I gladly quote them.

'I am most willing to admit, that dissent has not been unattended with advantage. It has been one means of preserving a holy seed among us, and we are greatly indebted to it for the maintenance of our civil and religious liberties; but then it should be equally admitted, and truth, I think, demands the admission, that these are not advantages flowing from Dissent, but rather expressions of divine mercy and love, the gracious providence of God overruling it for the production of good. The evil of disunion is necessary and certain: it is felt as a practical evil in most of our parishes throughout the land. It separates man from man, and Christian from Christian; it prevents concert, and paralyses charitable effort, by distracting both our designs and performances, wastes our means, and reduces the order and moral agency of our admirable parochial system to confusion and inefficiency. Could all the decidedly religious in a parish combine with the minister in religious and charitable effort in resisting abounding iniquity, and encouraging piety and order both in public and private, this communion of saints would, under God, exhibit so real and vital an excellence in Christianity, that the blessed result could not but be a general conviction of its excellence. It is the Devil's own maxim—"Divide and conquer." His grand object is to foster disunion, and to separate that he may destroy. When will our eyes be open to the wide-wasting malignity of this mischief? When will Churchmen aim at the largest comprehension, by correcting a discipline which they confess to be imperfect, by forbearing to insist on ceremonies, which they allow to be indifferent, and by reforming abuses which they admit to be scandalous? And when will Dissenters abate excessive pretensions, and Churchmen credit for honest intentions, and while they admit the doctrinal excellencies of our Church in essentials, forbear to magnify with uncharitable triumph her imperfections in circumstantialities? I have no hope that these evils will find any qualification in the means which have been hitherto adopted to correct them. It is not in legislative liberality, or in a renewed

The more wise and holy of the Puritans must not, because they lived in the same circle, be charged with the faults of the more extravagant: we might in that case charge even the disciples of Christ with the iniquity of Judas Iscariot. The Nonconformists, after the restoration, were however much more generally loyal than the Puritans of the Commonwealth. Time had dissipated false theories, and shown Christians the danger of interfering with this world's politics.

The style of the writers of this age was unhappy: perplexed, mixed with various languages, great quaintness, endless divisions, and the general sense often lost sight of in giving all the meanings of the various words which composed it. Bishop Andrews is said, by his quaintness, to have led the way to the departure from the simplicity of the style of the Reformers, and Donne and many others followed in his steps.

Some of the leading characters demand more particular notice. That of Dr. Owen stands eminent in various respects. His devotional, and practical, and expository works are an invaluable treasure of divinity. It does not appear to me, that he took a wise or a Christian course, with regard to government; ministers should never direct the politics of this world. *Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth:*

conference at Hampton Court or the Savoy, or in volumes of controversial Discussion, that I conceive the remedy will originate; these will either be superseded as unnecessary, or will be the consequence of that better spirit they are undertaken to promote.' He then refers to the practical blessedness of the communion of saints, felt throughout the land as the only effective means of uniformity.'¹

¹ See his work on Baptism, p. 292, 293.

the ministers objects are higher. His character, and his decision to support the Protectorate must have had influence in maintaining that usurpation. The defence set up for him falls short of a justification of his conduct, and it is better at once to acknowledge what is deemed the error of an eminent servant of God, than justify him throughout. His sermon after the king's death would tend to strengthen Cromwell's hand, and he evidently had a close intimacy with that usurper. With this serious drawback on his character, and with the exception of his books in support of independency, which occupy but a small proportion of his voluminous works, we freely avow, that his writings are eminently spiritual, devotional, and edifying. He is full of Biblical learning, sound exposition of doctrine, acuteness, and information. His controversial writings against the Socinians and Papists, on the question of justification, on the Jewish Questions, Sabbath, &c. are valuable and important. There is hardly any modern controversy that he has not well-digested and furnished matter for the defence of the truth. He gives expanded and rich views of the fullness of the gospel. His book on the 130th Psalm, is one of the fullest displays of evangelical forgiveness that we have ever seen. The Christian familiar with the conflicting exercises of experimental religion will be sensible of its value. It was a real service to the Church to have his works collected in 28 vols. 8vo. and they will furnish the Student with ample defences of the gospel against its various enemies. He was too minute and systematic in his distinctions for the largeness of scriptural truth; but he enters into the deepest recesses of the heart, shows clearly the evangelical principles by which sin is to

be subdued, and more minutely almost than any other writer displays the various details of holy and devotional feeling. He is here invaluable.

Baxter was another eminent divine of these times, of immense reading and writing also. Perhaps he ought not to be numbered among the Non-conformists. In some measure he was indeed led away by the politics of the times; yet, notwithstanding this and some of his controversial writings, and his Reformed Liturgy, this holy man, when silenced, continued to attend the established church. His practical writings are invaluable; powerful, awakening, with deep views of eternity, and the most heavenly meditations on the future state. The defect of Baxter's practical, or rather *experimental*, writings was such as might be expected from his defects in doctrinal views. We do not now remember (even in his most glowing work, the *Saint's Rest*) any very glowing views of the amazing love of Christ to the most sinful, and the freeness of his salvation. His method of peace to troubled consciences is circuitous and perplexed, instead of the direct road of simple and immediate faith. His *Christian Directory* is one of his most valuable works. His main power was in addresses to the conscience, in which he was probably more free and unfettered than most writers. His controversial writings are of various character. His *Catholic Theology* has much valuable information, and his reasons for the Christian Religion contain an able statement of the Evidences. He had to contend at first with Antinomians, who abused the gospel: he was a great pacificator, and these things which, in one view, are the highest excellence of character, seem to have led him into most of his mistakes. From an

anxious desire to unite all parties, and to guard most carefully against the abuse of the doctrines of grace, he departed from the simplicity of the gospel, and multiplied the very divisions which we may well believe, it was the desire of his heart to heal. Bishop Stillingfleet has well pointed out some part of his character. Speaking in favour of him to some who wanted to charge serious error upon him, he says, 'Some liberty must be allowed to Metaphysical heads, to show their skill in distinctions above other men; and sometimes when there is no cause for them. But we must not presently charge men with heresy for new invented distinctions, wherein they may be allowed to please themselves; so that they do not cumber the faith with them, nor be too sharp upon their brethren for not apprehending the use of them.' Of his Aphorisms of Justification, his Confession of Faith, and his Treatise on the imputation of Christ's righteousness, Mr. Fuller of Kettering gives the following views. He says, 'I find but little satisfaction in Mr Baxter's Disputations on Justification. He says a great deal about it, distinguishing it into different degrees, pleading for evangelical works, as necessary to it.' 'Mr. Baxter considered Calvinists and Arminians as reconcilable, making the difference between them of but small account. The scheme of the Arminians appears to me to undermine the doctrines of salvation, by grace alone, and resolve the difference between one sinner and another into the will of man, which is directly opposite to all my views and experience. Nor could I feel a union of heart with those . . . who hold with the gospel being a new remedial law, and represent sinners as contributing to their own conversion.'

Doubtless Mr. Fuller, by union of heart, does not mean more than entire and cordial concurrence, and probably few would openly profess the words to which he objects. Much, very much, allowance is to be made for the darkness of human conception and expression in good men, and we may have *Christian communion* with our brethren when we cannot concur in *all their expressions*.

Mr. Cecil says, 'Baxter surpasses all others in the grand, impressive, and persuasive style; but he is not to be named with Owen, as to furnishing the Student's mind. He is, however, multifarious, complex, practical.' ¹

It is painful to see two such eminently holy men, and useful writers, as Owen and Baxter, writing against each other as they do. With a conviction, agreeing with Mr. Cecil, (that Owen is much nearer the truth in doctrine) it is yet painful to see Owen so severely handle such a man as Baxter, and to see Baxter's recriminations. One is only comforted in the thought of their perfect union above, in together magnifying the riches of that grace which has covered all their asperities. What a lesson may such differences teach us of ceasing from man! We learn similar lessons in the disputes of good men, on points of discipline as well as of doctrine.

But it is impossible to enlarge on each individual. Mr. Hervey sums up their respective characters with happy discrimination. '*Dr. Owen*, with his correct

¹ Mr. Cecil observes in his *Remains*, 'There is something so remarkable in the genius and spirit of the gospel, that it is not to be understood by any force of speculation and investigation. Baxter attempted this method and found it vain.'

judgment and immense fund of learning. *Mr. Charnock*, with his masculine style and inexhaustible vein of thought. *Dr. Goodwin*, with sentiments truly evangelical, and a most happy talent at opening, sifting, and displaying the hidden riches of scripture; these are, I think, the first three. Then come *Mr. How*, nervous and majestic, with all the powers of imagery at his command. *Dr. Bates*, fluent, polished with a never-ceasing flow of beautiful similitudes. *Mr. Flavel*, fervent and affectionate, with a masterly hand at probing the conscience and striking the passions; *Mr. Caryl*, *Dr. Manton*, *Mr. Poole*, with many others whose works will speak for them ten thousand times better than the tongue of panegyric, or the pen of biography.'

The missionary spirit of the Protestant Church (at least as far as regards our own country, for some efforts had been previously made from Switzerland and Sweden, and by the Dutch in Ceylon and other islands), commenced with the labours of Eliot (justly called the Apostle of the Indians), who arrived in New England in 1632. He acquired the native English, and began preaching to them in 1646. The scattered state of the Indians being the chief impediment to their instruction; large collections were made in every parish in England, and in 1649 an ordinance was made in parliament for propagating the gospel.

On the restoration in 1661, through the efforts of Baxter, Ashurst, and Boyle, the king granted a new corporation, under the name of the Company for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England; and land, bought with the former collections, was permanently settled on this corporate society, of which Boyle was the President, and Ashurst the Treasurer.

Boyle himself, in his own conduct, set the precedent of those Bible and Missionary exertions which have since so increased. Holland and Denmark followed the example of England.¹

The Society formed in 1662 being confined to New England and its neighbourhood, and not meeting the wants of other countries; another charter was granted in 1701 for the formation of another Society on a larger scale, called the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Dr. Stanley, Bishop Compton, and Archbishop Tenison seem to have been mainly instrumental in obtaining this charter.

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, (chiefly confining at first its labours at home), had been formed in 1698, by friends who heartily joined also in the chartered Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

It is pleasing to observe these first beginnings of that spirit, which is one of the highest results of scriptural divinity—a spirit of labour to make the light of the gospel shine in every land—a spirit which, through Divine mercy, is now more and more spreading through the Christian Church.²

¹ Particulars will be found in Baxter's *Life*, p. 290—297; Millar's *Propagation*, Vol. ii. pp. 296—314; Humphrey's *Account*, pp. 5, 6; Mather's *Magnalia*, pp. 170—211; Birch's *Life of Boyle*, pp. 140, 141. Birch gives the charter, pp. 319—335.

² Full accounts of the progress of the Missions will be found in Brown's *History of the Propagation of the Gospel*, and Smith's *History of Missions*.

SECTION VI.

THE DIVINES OF THE RESTORATION AND
REVOLUTION.

On the restoration of Charles II. to the throne of his ancestors, from which he had been so long and so unjustly kept; the state of parties was completely changed. The Church of England recovered its privileges, and regained its power and influence; but not alas! in the spirit of the Reformation.

Unhappily the severities which churchmen had endured, enkindled feelings of distrust and enmity; and great severities were in turn exercised against the Non-conformists. Reasonable concessions were refused, and however we may discern a moral retribution on the part of God towards some of those who suffered; we can never justify the conduct of those who inflicted the punishment. Lord Clarendon attempts to defend it by two alleged instances of want of ingenuity and integrity; but Bishop Heber justly remarks, ‘The duplicity or bigotry of a few leading individuals can be no good argument against using all just and reasonable means to conciliate a numerous and powerful party, the majority of whom must be like other men, to be subdued by kindness, and satisfied when their complaints are attended to.’¹

The sad Bartholomew-day in 1662, saw, it is said, 2000 ministers cast out of the Church of England; most of whom might probably have been retained in

¹ See Life of Taylor, p. 243.

its sanctuary by a conciliatory spirit. We fully admit, that it gave evidence of the power and reality of religious principle in those, who for conscience sake, gave up their means of livelihood; and of the little advance that the spirit of peace and toleration had yet made in the minds of those who, for the lesser things of religion, could make such a cruel sacrifice. But both sides must be looked at. Sir M. Hale said, 'those of the separation were good men, but they had narrow souls, or they would not break the peace of the church for such inconsiderable matters as the points in difference were.' Had not *scrupulosity* as well as tenderness of conscience considerable influence with the non-conformists in this sad matter?—Was there not want of forbearance on one side, as well as intolerance on the other? Yet there was no adequate excuse for the high ruling party. Was not theirs the real spirit of the world, and the enmity of the heart against the gospel? When apprehension was expressed that the terms of conformity were so hard that many would not comply, Archbishop Sheldon replied, 'he was *afraid* they would;' and when another said, 'it is pity the door is so strait'—he answered, 'it is no pity at all, if we would have thought so many of them would have conformed we would have made it straiter!'

It is observable, that many of the Non-conformists seemed to get over, or at least not to stumble at what are now considered the main difficulties, while they were burdened by things which are now little felt: such as the use of a surplice, or a form of prayer, which some would have laid down their lives to have had removed.¹ Surely the weak conscience might, with

¹ See Mather's *Magnalia*, Book iii. 113.

singleness and simplicity before God, bear such things, rather than throw the minister out of an important sphere of usefulness, in his Master's service. Baxter himself, after fully stating the faults of the ruling party, speaks with much piety and candour of the faults of the suffering party. ¹

It was, however, a painful state of things, when, in a Christian country, the highest acts of religion, social prayer, and praise, and Christian instruction, were treated as worse crimes than open violations of the plain law of God; and to be religious, was almost considered as synonymous with rebellion.

In the wonderful providence of God, however, the good men who were prevented the exercise of their ministry, improved the leisure to the production of valuable, practical, and devotional Treatises, which have been preserved as the food of the spiritual church in subsequent ages, by the Divines, whom we have noticed in the preceding Section. It shows that a good man can be thrown into no situation in which he may not be a blessing.

We shall have to notice a very serious decline in the religious character of the writings of this æra. There were some illustrious exceptions, and the Christian eye dwells with delight on such Bishops as Leighton, Reynolds, Hopkins, and Beveridge in the established Church, as well as on many other names that might be mentioned in other communions.

We now proceed to the character of Writers of the Established Church at the Restoration, and Revolution, and succeeding period. The History of Divinity,

¹ See his works, Vol. xiv. p. 149, 150.

the century from the Restoration, to the middle of the 18th century, is by no means cheering to the Christian eye, though it furnishes many a safeguard, and much valuable instruction. Let us trace it in its progress. And here the author, feeling the extreme delicacy and difficulty of pronouncing an opinion on men of great learning and piety, and his own inability to give a judgment, will rather use the statements of others than speak in his own words: it will be necessary to retrace some of the ways which we had previously gone.

Bishop Hall, who was at the Synod of Dort in 1618, says, 'After not many years, settling at home, it grieved my soul to see our own Church begin to sicken of the same disease which we had endeavoured to cure in our neighbours. Mr. Montague's tart and vehement assertions of some positions near of kin to the Remonstrants of Netherland, gave occasion of raising no small broil in the church. Sides were taken; pulpits every where rang of these opinions, but parliaments took notice of the division, and questioned the occasioner. Now, as one that desired to do all good offices to our dear and common mother, I set my thoughts on work, how, so dangerous a quarrel might be happily composed, and finding that mistaking was more guilty of this dissention, than misbelieving; (since it plainly appeared to me, that Mr. Montague meant to express, not Arminius, but B. Overall, a moderate and safe author; however he sped in delivery of him;) I wrote a little project of pacification, wherein I desired to rectify the judgment of men, concerning this misapprehended controversy; showing the true party in this unseasonable plea I gathered (out of each side) such common

propositions concerning these five *busy Articles*, wherein both of them are fully agreed. All which being put together, seemed unto me to make up so sufficient a body of accorded truth, that all other questions moved hereabouts appeared merely superfluous; and every moderate Christian might find where to rest himself without hazard or contradiction.

But controversial writings multiplied, and Arminian views spread among Churchmen. The political struggles which followed were exceedingly prejudicial to real religion. As we have before observed, the principal Divines, and some of the most holy writers, on the truths of religion, became mingled with the politics of the day.

The hypocrisy of many, and the extreme views of others who made a profession of religion; their violence, their extravagances, their ambition; and the dead formality and bad taste of others, gave occasion for all sorts of jokes; religion became the laughing stock of the wits, and hateful to multitudes. Religion triumphs by patient sufferings; but unsanctified elevation, self-conceit, hypocrisies, ambition and domination, and lording it over others, ever impede its progress.

It was under these circumstances that the Church of England was situated in the days of Charles II. It was too evident, that the great effusion of the blessed Spirit, which had produced the pure and spiritual churches of the Reformation began to fail, and worldliness, and indifference, and spiritual death succeeded. The infidelity and profligacy of the court of the reigning monarch accelerated the course of irreligion through the country.

We shall better from a judgment, however, of the *class of Divines* that succeeded by considering the

statements of different writers. Bishop Burnet was one of that class. Dr. Tuckney saw its rise and corresponded with one of its earliest promoters. Their respective accounts are subjoined in notes.

Bishop Burnet has many valuable, very valuable qualities as a Divine. His pastoral care is exceedingly useful, but his religion was injured, and his spiritual character greatly lowered, by engaging as he did in worldly politics: though the friend of Leighton, he falls vastly short of Leighton's unction and spirituality.¹

¹ After complaining of the ease, sloth, and negligence of the restored clergy, Bishop Burnet says—'If a new set of men had not appeared of another stamp, the church had quite lost her esteem over the nation. These were generally of Cambridge, formed under some Divines, the chief of whom were Drs. Whichcot, Cudworth, Wilkins, More, and Worthington. *Whichcot* being disgusted with the dry systematical way of those times, studied to raise those who conversed with him to a nobler set of thoughts, and to consider religion as a seed of a deiform nature (to use one of his own phrases). In order to this he set young students much on reading the ancient philosophers, chiefly Plato, Tully, and Plotinus, and on considering the Christian religion as a doctrine sent from God both to elevate and sweeten human nature. *Cudworth* carried this on with great strength of genius and a vast compass of learning. *Wilkins* joined with those who studied to propagate better thoughts, to take men off from being in parties, or from narrow notions, from superstitious conceits, and a fierceness about opinions. He was a great observer and promoter of experimental philosophy. *More* was an openhearted and sincere Christian philosopher, who studied to establish men in the great principles of religion against Atheism. *Worthington* was a man of eminent piety and great humility, and practised a most sublime way of self-denial and devotion.'

After alluding to the publication and spread of Hobbes' *Leviathan*, Burnet goes on—'So this set of men at Cambridge studied to assert and examine the principles of religion and morality on clear grounds, and in a philosophical method. In this *More* led the way to many that came after him. All these and those who were formed under them studied to examine farther into the nature of things than had been done formerly. They declared against superstition on the one hand, and enthusiasm on

Liturgy, and could well live under them, but they did not unlawful to live under another form. They wished they might have been carried with more moderation; and they tried to keep a good correspondence with those who differed from them in opinion, and allowed a great freedom both in philosophy and divinity, from whence they were called men of latitude upon this men of narrower thoughts and fiercer tempers upon them the name of Latitudinarians.¹ They read English much, and the making out the reasons of things being part of their studies, their enemies called them Socinian were all very zealous against popery.'

'The most eminent of those who were formed under these men I have mentioned were Tillotson, Stillingfleet, and *Tillotson* had the brightest thoughts and the most correct all our Divines, and was esteemed the best preacher of his time. He was eminent for his opposition to popery. *Stillingfleet* was a man of much more learning, but of a more reserved and high temper. He applied himself much to the study of the records, and original of our constitution. *Patrick* was a great preacher. He wrote much, and well, and chiefly on the abuses. *Lloyd* of Oxford was formed by Bishop Wilkins, and went into most of their principles, but went far beyond them in his views and was a great critic. *Tenison* was a very learned man, and took much pains to state the notions and practices of heathenish and so to fasten the charge on the Church of Rome. He took much pains to observe all the common errors of language.

'This set of men contributed more than can well be imagined to reform the way of preaching; which, among the Divines of England before them, was overrun with pedantry, a great deal of quotations from fathers and ancient writers, a long oper-

views of a partial and attached friend, one of the class which he describes : a class undoubtedly worthy of the Student's attention, and from which much, directly and indirectly, may be learned. The improvements, however, which these excellent men introduced, by no means compensated for their defects of evangelical statements, and their keeping in the back ground the peculiar doctrines of the gospel.

Bishop Burnet has selected some of the best writers of his views ; but there were also men of inferior minds, violent high Churchmen, who would so have pressed their views, as to have brought all into confusion.

At the end of Dr. Whichcot's Aphorisms, there is the correspondence between him and Dr. Tuckney, which has been already referred to, and which throws considerable light on the kind of divinity, which was then becoming popular. ¹

hearers felt an instruction of another sort than had commonly been observed before. So they became very much followed ; and a set of these men brought off the city in a great measure from the prejudices they had formerly to the Church.

¹ Dr. Tuckney, in his Letter to Whichcot, 1651, speaks of Drs. Jackson and Hammond as learned men, but the first sufficiently obscure, and both too corrupt ; and then talks of Whichcot's being cast into the company of very learned and ingenious men at Cambridge, who, he says, ' I fear at least some of them studied other authors more than the Scriptures ; and Plato and his scholars above others. Hence, in part, hath run a vein of doctrine which divers very able and worthy men, whom, from my heart, I much honour, are known by. The power of nature in morals too much advanced. Reason has too much given to it in the mysteries of faith. A recta ratio much talked of, which I cannot tell where to find. Mind and understanding is all ; heart and will little spoken of. The decrees of God questioned and quarrelled with ; because, according to our reason, we cannot comprehend how they may stand with his goodness, which, according to your phrase, he is under the power of. Those, our Philosophers, and other heathens made fairer candidates for heaven than the Scriptures seem to

The danger of giving up scriptural expressions, and changing for those we think less offensive, is very great, and the presumption very daring. Witsius speaks mildly of the over-refined delicacy of giving up phrases of scripture, '*cujus castissimas, sapientissimas, maxime que emphaticas locutiones, nostris nescio quibus lenioribus emollire velli, animi est perperam delicate, neque sapientiæ sacrarum literarum justum suum pretium statuentis.*'

Robert Hall observes, with his accustomed terseness. 'If it be replied, why adhere to an offensive term when

allow of, and they, in their virtues, preferred before Christians, overtaken with weaknesses. A kind of moral divinity minted, only with a little tincture of Christ added; nay, a Platonic faith unites to God. Inherent righteousness so preached, as if not with the prejudice of imputed righteousness, which has sometimes very unseemly language given it, yet much said of the one, and very little or nothing of the other. This was not Paul's manner of preaching. This inherent righteousness may be perfect in this life. An estate of love in this life above a life of faith. And some broad expressions, as though in this life we may be above ordinances: with divers other principles of religion, by some very doubtfully spoken of.'

In another Letter, in Oct. 1651, Dr. Tuckney says, 'Would you and some others as fully and as frequently insist on free justification, by the imputation of Christ's righteousness, as you and they do on inherent holiness and righteousness, that no disservice may be done to that by pressing of this; matter of complaint would be prevented: but when this is insisted upon; with the slighting terms of notions and speculations given to the other when contended for; to me it is just matter of offence.'

To these charges Whichcot replies at some length, and wards off some of them, but seems to lose sight of the all important fact that Christian practice can only flow from Christian principles, and to forget that nothing but the cross of Christ furnishes an adequate motive for that very devotedness to God and self-government, and justice, and truth, which he would almost exclusively press. His replies indeed, in this respect, prove that Dr. Tuckney's charge was not without foundation. Experience has abundantly shown that the peculiar doctrines of the gospel, however they may be abused by hypocrites, are alone efficacious to the holy and heavenly life of the real Christian.

meaning may be expressed in other words, of at last by a more circuitous mode of expression? The obvious answer is, that words and ideas are closely associated, and that though ideas give birth to terms, appropriate terms become in their turn the surest safeguard of ideas, insomuch that a truth which is never announced but in a circuitous and circumlocutory form, will either have no hold, or a very feeble one on the public mind. The anxiety with which the precise, the appropriate term is avoided, bespeaks a shrinking, a timidity, a distrust with relation to the idea conveyed by it, which will be interpreted as equivalent to its disavowal.¹ We would press this point because of our strong conviction of the many evils of giving up scriptural phraseology. The thing escapes with the term, or is deepened or otherwise in the impression of its importance according to the strength or weakness of the term employed to designate it. What words did Paul use to preach the gospel? Cor. ii. 1, 4, 13. The original cast of the truth of Revelation, naturally seems to require a corresponding originality in the mode of expression through which they are communicated, in order that the ideas intended to be conveyed by them, may as far as possible be precise and determinate.

My much valued friend Mr. Pratt, has made some remarks illustrating the character of the divinity of this age, which are worthy of deep consideration.²

¹ See difference between baptism of John and of Christ, p. 67.

² Speaking of Bishop Hopkins, in the life prefixed to his works, says, 'He was one of the last of that sound race of divines, which the Reformation gave birth; and who in uninterrupted succession, had maintained in the episcopal chair the genuine doctrines of the scriptures and of the church. Bishop Hopkins and a contemporary Bishop Beveridge had scarcely any eminent

The agitations consequent on the Restoration were succeeded, as Bishop Heber has remarked, 'by a school of literature and composition, of all others which the country has seen, the least favourable to genius, and the most unlike that style of thinking and ex-

successors of equal, or nearly equal rank, for many years, who unequivocally and openly held and inculcated the pure doctrines of the Reformation.'—After noticing the tendency to deterioration, he proceeds, 'The scholastic and inelegant manner of exhibiting Christian doctrines which had generally prevailed, became unfashionable: a more easy and polished style was introduced, and some good men were not aware of the caution which should be observed on such a subject: old terms were to make way for terms less offensive: truths were rather to be explained than the complex words which denoted them continued: fundamental doctrines were to be reduced within as narrow a compass as possible, and a liberal spirit was to be cultivated.'

'In the correspondence between Drs. Tuckney and Whichcot, which has been already quoted, Mr. Pratt says, 'The tenets and feelings of the old and new school are fully developed by men of piety and sagacity; and clear indications will be seen of that insensible departure from divine truth, which increased during the subsequent years. Their project (that of the new school) as far as legitimate, was doubtless a noble one, but it was difficult to be accomplished: and the attempt required a clear discernment of the distinguishing truths of the gospel, a deep impression of their paramount importance, and both the inclination and the skill gracefully to interweave them as the principles and motives of all action. In such qualifications these good men had not the pre-eminence requisite for their undertaking. While therefore we find in their manner an admirable improvement on the pedantry of the preceding age, and in their matter numberless engaging and elegant displays of the evidences of Christianity, and of the grandeur and beauty of its precepts, we are seldom roused and invigorated to action by its distinguishing doctrines: that life and energy which emanate from the doctrines connected with the fall and recovery of man, and which are appropriate to Christianity alone, too often yield to motives drawn from the schools of philosophy: and the fitness, beauty, and expediency of religion and virtue take place of the authoritative will of God and the gracious provisions of the gospel.' He considers that Bishop Hopkins united the truth of the old school with the elegance of the new. But, perhaps, even in Bishop Hopkins, though the glad truths of the gospel are forcibly defended, some will wish they were more sweetly and fully exhibited, as in Leighton, Bradford, Fox, and the Reformers.

pression which had distinguished Jeremy Taylor and his contemporaries.¹

² Dr. Buchanan viewed the subject more with reference to spiritual religion. In a sermon, preached at Cambridge, he takes a review of the Protestant church in this country.²

The extreme importance of the subject, the justice of many of the remarks which have been quoted, and the difficulty of giving an opinion on matters which concern men of such character, learning, and piety,

¹ See Life of Taylor, p. 155.

² He says, 'The light of divine truth continued to shine in the Protestant Church for a long period, with some intermission indeed, and, in certain churches, more intensely than in others. But it shone in some places as brightly, and probably endured as long, as ever it did in any period of the Primitive Church. At length, however, by the combined operation of causes which are well known, a spirit of indifference to religious truth began to manifest itself, not only in the established and national churches, but among all other denominations of Christians. It is difficult to say where there was most apathy and languor. For though the form of sound words was still generally retained (in our own church, in a *written* form, in other churches, in an *extempore* form), and there were some eminent examples of piety and laudable zeal; yet it was most evident that in many places religion was sinking very fast into a lifeless profession, and that in some places it merely exhibited the body and external figure. Even among those denominations of Christians who were once distinguished by a name derived from purity, little fruit was to be found. . . . And not only was the spirit of religion nearly extinguished, but men began to be *ASHAMED* of their religion. All this while science and human learning were progressive, but the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures was passing away. The Hebrew language, which is the source of all critical knowledge of the Bible (of the New Testament as well as the Old), became at length but little known even to learned men. And though there ever have been illustrious exceptions, it ceased at last to form a part of the ordinary studies of our youth, at our seats of learning, even of those students who were destined for the sacred office.'

'Out of this state of things arose a new enemy to the church; the enemy that might be expected, *INFIDELITY*; or the positive denial of the truth of a revelation from God. Superstition first shut the Bible. The second attempt was made by infidelity.

will justify the length of the quotations which have been made.

We would now notice more distinctly individual writers. Some maintained the high standard of the Reformation. Bishop Hopkins has already been noticed.

Bishop Reynolds died in 1676. He is a writer of great value, and deep piety and experience. His sentences are astonishingly terse and full of matter, and his doctrine is throughout evangelical, spiritual, and holy. His commentary on the 14th of Hosea is particularly excellent. His works have been lately republished.

Archbishop Leighton died in 1684. He is one of the very first divines of the British Church, whose writings breathe throughout the spirit of devotion, a noble strain of deep piety, a most humble, heavenly, and loving spirit, an elegant mind, and a scriptural standard of evangelical doctrine.

Bishop Beveridge died in 1708. He himself published only his more learned works, his Catechism, and one or two small pieces; but his executors published many volumes of Sermons, his Private Thoughts, &c. never intended for the press. The whole of his English works have been correctly edited by Mr. Hartwell Horne. His Private Thoughts have been of inestimable service to the Church, from the deep piety and devotion and evangelical sentiments of this excellent bishop.

The Christian Student may also be farther assisted by a more particular consideration of some leading divines of the school which we have been considering.

Archbishop Tillotson, in his private character, seems

to have been remarkably sincere and upright,¹ open and generous, bearing reproaches patiently, longing for the union of the churches of Christ, charitable, and above ambition and the love of money. Far would we be from throwing any doubt on his personal piety; his very excellencies are the reason why it is necessary to advert to his erroneous views. His writings are singled out, with those of Chillingworth, by Mr. Locke, as eminent examples of perspicuity.

He seems to have been early prejudiced against preaching the doctrines of Christianity. When he was at Kiddington, in Suffolk, the parish universally complained that Jesus Christ was not preached among them—he meets such an accusation in his sermon on Titus iii. 2. ‘I foresee what will be said, because I have heard it so often said in the like case, that there is not one word of Jesus Christ in all this. No more there is in the text; and yet I hope that Jesus Christ is truly preached, whenever his will and laws and the duties enjoined by the Christian religion are inculcated upon us.’² Here was his grand mistake; and the connections of his text, both in the close of the former, and the following verses, might have shown him that his view was not correct. We do not preach Jesus Christ merely by preaching his laws. He is far more than a Lawgiver, and his laws derive immense energy and force from his atonement, and are eminently effective through his grace.

His views on justification (See his Sermons on Justifying Faith) are far from the views of our Reformers.

¹ Two of his expressions are admirable: ‘I cannot endure a trick any where, much less in religion.’—‘Let us never do any thing for religion that is contrary to it.’

² See his Life, p. 28.

planting in Christ : ' and sometimes he lets the grandeur of his subject burst through the dulness¹ of his ordinary writing, as in the following passage: ' Blessed God and Saviour of mankind, what shall we render to thee for such mighty love, for such inestimable benefits as thou hast purchased for us, and art ready to confer upon us ? ' &c.

Dr. Barrow is a superior writer in the same school.² The powers of his mind were of the highest order ; and in his sermons on the passion of Christ, and on his incarnation, we have very powerful statements of the fundamental doctrines of the gospel ; and his treatise on the Pope's Supremacy, has been said to be the most valuable on that topic in the English language.

In his Sermons on Faith there are some magnificent passages ; but there are others in which we cannot concur, though he distinctly acknowledges it to be a fruit of the Spirit.

In his Sermon on Justifying Faith, he speaks of God's being, by Christ, become reconciled, ' so as generally to proffer mercy, upon certain reasonable and gentle terms, to all that shall sincerely embrace such overtures of mercy, and heartily resolve to comply with those terms required by him ;—namely the returning and adhering to him, forsaking all impiety and iniquity, and constantly persisting in faithful obedience to his holy commandments.' This is not the simplicity of the gospel of Christ. Who shall be saved on the terms of constantly persisting in faithful obedience to his holy commandments !

¹ Bishop Heber calls it, ' the dull good sense of Tillotson.' The expression is perhaps too strong. See Tillotson's first sermon, in his works.

² Robert Hall has some excellent remarks on Barrow and Tillotson. See his Reviews, p. 140—143.

... In the general strain of writers of this class, there is, it appears to the Author, a material departure from the character of scriptural divinity.

... Compare an epistle of St. Paul's and a writer of this class, and you appear to be in another atmosphere. A few remarks on Barrow's Sermons on Industry will illustrate this view. These are admirable sermons as comprehending a very valuable mass of weighty and important motives of industry in general, and in our callings as Christians, scholars, and gentlemen. It is a book which may be read through more than once with much advantage; almost every topic relating to the subject seems discussed, and almost every text quoted, but we see not evangelical motives fully developed. The love of Christ, the grand impelling spring of ceaseless activity, and devotedness to Him, the grand rule of all industry, are by no means clearly stated, or powerfully pressed. The beauty, the advantages, and the excellence of industry to the attainment of every thing valuable it is true are put in a thousand instructive forms, and here and there a gospel principle and scriptural examples, are briefly adverted to, but there is vastly more of the views of gospel truth in the texts of scripture that he quotes, than in many pages of his own matter. Classical authors are quoted by him almost in the same way that he would quote an inspired writer. What Augustine says of Cicero, one is ready to say of him, though certainly in a far more restricted degree; we cease to be captivated by him because the name of Christ does not occur in him. The name of Christ does occur in Dr. Barrow (though far more rarely in these sermons than the Christian would desire) and in such a sermon as his on the Passion, we are glad to sit at his feet and learn the very best lessons.

The character of other authors of this period will be seen in noticing the general course of divinity.

One of the happy circumstances of this age was the full establishment of the invaluable principle of the full TOLERATION of religion in all things, that does not interfere with the peace of society; that principle was never before so fully and generally understood, and we are greatly indebted to the celebrated Locke for its elucidation.

It will have been seen that some efforts had been made in the previous age; but the severities after the restoration show with what little success. The moderation of such divines as we have noticed was favourable to the introduction of this principle, and the sufferings which in their turn every side has passed through from the ruling powers, led men to better views. In his banishment, just before the revolution in 1688, Locke was led to the consideration of this subject, and published his invaluable letter of Toleration, in 1689. It was, as might be expected, opposed; and the controversy was continued in subsequent letters till 1706. Many exceedingly disliked it.

South, in a sermon on Gal. ii. 5. said to be preached at the close of the 17th century, after giving his view of the evils of a comprehension, says 'But from comprehension, let us pass on to toleration; that is, from a plague within the church, to a plague round about it. And is it possible for the church to continue sound, or indeed so much as to breathe, in either of these cases? Toleration is the very pulling up the floodgates, and breaking open the fountains of the great deep, to pour in a deluge of wickedness, heresy, and blasphemy, upon the church.'¹

¹ Sermons, Vol. vii. p. 512.

Such an extract shows with what difficulty, the right of private judgment in religion, and the complete recognition of the principles of toleration, were established. But South's spirit was embittered against dissenters; and though there are admirable appeals to the conscience, and his statement of doctrine is generally more scriptural than that of many of this age, and he is a clear, and often forcible writer, yet his bitterness must have irritated and provoked, and his habit of jesting in his discourses cannot be too much discountenanced. There is, however, great spirit and energy, and some fine and inimitable addresses in his writings.

Locke himself is far from being a scriptural writer. It is a strong statement which Mr. Scott makes; he says, 'In no book which the author has read, does the pride of human reason opposing the express testimonies of God, and striving to wrest them from their obvious meaning, appear so prominent as in most part of Mr. Locke's Exposition of St. Paul's Epistles.' He had a clear and strong mind, with great powers of reasoning. He concurred with the Arminians, and was intimate with their leaders in Holland. His works have been much canvassed, and Lee, Browne, Edwards, and Stillingfleet, and the Author of 'Mr. Locke's Religion' have sufficiently proved that he overvalued the powers of the human understanding, and disliked, and disbelieved some of the vital doctrines of Christianity. Whatever desire of peace and union among Christians may have actuated him, we cannot but consider that his influence has been decidedly prejudicial to the pure gospel of Christ. While we acquit him of open scepticism and infidelity, we cannot acquit

him of a tendency to Socinian principles. His works must therefore be read with caution. Locke admits that Jesus Christ gives his Holy Spirit to help us: but is it not the admission of a correct notion, without its becoming a practical principle?

Various controversies arose in this period, which indicate the character of its divinity. One of the most important, the influence of which has reached the present day, was upon the all-important doctrine of justification. Mr. Nelson gives many particulars of this controversy in his life of Bishop Bull, taking the side of the Bishop.

Bishop Bull printed his Apostolical Harmony in 1669, with the professed intention of reconciling St. James and St. Paul, designing to meet, what he supposed to be the erroneous views of other writers on justification. In his work there is much that is true; he utterly renounces all merit in works, and insists that no obedience can be rendered without the aid of the Spirit, and justly presses the necessity of obedience. But the whole system is calculated to undermine the simplicity and purity of the scriptural doctrine, and overturn statements in our Articles and Homilies, and elsewhere made by our Reformers. His system is, 'Faith, to which justification is attributed by St. Paul, is not to be understood as one single virtue, but denotes the whole condition of the gospel covenant, that is, comprehends in one word all the works of Christian piety.' It is surely a great inconsistency professedly to renounce all merit in works, and yet thus substantially to clothe them with merit sufficient to cover all sins and justify before God. Under the cover of justification by faith, it is in reality justifica-

tion by works. The faith by which we are justified is not the principle that apprehends the Saviour and thus secures the exclusive glory to Him, but a principle which *includes* (not merely *produces*) works; which in truth is identical with works justifying us, or justification by works. By this mode of statement justification by faith is indeed held in words, but the real doctrine is lost. In fact, similar perversions of the gospel had arisen in the days of the Reformers, and Melancthon ably met them: ¹ 'We are accounted righteous, that is, are accepted of God and have peace of conscience,' he said, 'for Christ's sake, and not for that of our renovation to holiness. For this latter is not adequate to that end. We are justified by faith alone, not because of that grace's being the root of all virtues, but because it lays hold on Christ, for whose sake we are accepted whatever be the amount of our renovation, which indeed must necessarily follow, but is not the thing that gives peace to conscience. Love, therefore, though it is the fulfilling of the law, is not that which justifies, but faith only, not as constituting any perfection in us, but as apprehending or embracing the Saviour. We are righteous, or justified, not because of our fulfilling of the law, or our love, or our renovation (though these are the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us) but for the sake of Christ, whom we apprehend by faith alone.'

Bishop Bull's book led to many discussions, and was in part or wholly answered or noticed, either expressly, or by meeting the objections substantially, by Gataker, Trueman, Tully, Baxter, Tombes, Owen,

¹ See Scott's Continuation of Milner, Vol. ii. pp. 117—122.

and others.¹ Bishop Barlow having received a
 from a minister in his diocese (who wrote
 something on Bishop Bull's idea of justificati
 faith including works) replied in two excellent
 written in 1678 (but not published till 1701) in
 he very ably establishes the doctrines of the Re
 tion. The minister considered Dr. Hammond
 Patrik, Dr. Tillotson, Dr. Stillingfleet, Dr. J
 Dr. Whitbert, Mr. Bull, Mr. Baxter, Mr. B
 and Dr. Smallwood, as supporting his views o
 tification. Without admitting that they did, B
 Barlow shows how contrary these views were
 whole spirit of the Reformers, and of later writ
 Jewell, Reynolds, Hooker, Whitaker, Day
 Crakenthorp, Field, John White, Downham,
 Liber Concordiæ signed by eight thousand mi
 and the Corpus Confessionum, and says, 'Sure
 that all the learned divines, and dutiful sons
 Church of England, who have written of our jus
 tion before God, before the late unhappy rebell
 least all I have yet met with, do constantly pro
 vindicate the imputation of our blessed Sav
 righteousness, against the contrary doctrine of F
 and Socinians.'²—p. 133.

We have already noticed Baxter's Aphorism
 Justification, which Bishop Barlow regarded as

¹ The controversy has been revived in the present day, and we regret that Bishop Bull has still defenders among the dignitaries of the church, it is very satisfactory to be able to refer them to Archdeacon Browne's, and Bishop Ryder's charges, and Professor Scholefield's Sermon on this subject.

² The work is entitled, Two Letters written, by the Right Dr. Thomas Barlow, late Lord Bishop of Lincoln, concerning justification by faith only, to a minister in his Diocese.

first deviation from the received opinion on justification in the reformed churches. Burgess, Crandon, Owen, Brown (in his *Life of Justification*) replied with various powers, and on different grounds to Baxter, who himself modified his statements in his *Confession of Faith*. In his last days he says, 'I formerly believed the formal nature of faith to lie in consent, but now I recant it. I believe it lies in trust, and this makes the right to lie in the object, for it is, I depend on Christ as the matter or merit of my pardon, my life, my crown, and my glory.'

Witsius in his *Animadversiones Irenicæ* ably meets Bishop Bull's statements. See chap. viii. and ix.

The publication of Dr. Crisp's sermons in 1691 led to something of a similar controversy among the dissenters. Finding the statements of Dr. Crisp tending to Antinomianism, Dr. Williams in the same year published his *gospel truth*, taking nearly the same standard as Baxter. It was approved by Dr. Bates, Mr. Howe, and Mr. Alsop. He was replied to by Chauncy in his *Neonomianism unmasked*, (in which are some valuable remarks, though in a harsh spirit,) by Lobb and others. Dr. Stillingfleet was applied to as umpire. He gave his sentiments in favour of Dr. Williams in the second part of his *Discourses on the Doctrine of Christ's satisfaction*, published in 1700, a work which contains many useful thoughts. It was answered by Chauncy. Trail wrote a *Letter on the subject*.¹ Witsius reviewed the controversy and summed up his view of the Christian Truth in his *Animadversiones Irenicæ*, published in 1696. Beart's

¹ See his *Works*, Vol. i. p. 253, &c.

Vindication of the **Eternal Law and Everlasting Gospel**, in 1707, had reference to the same subject. Many expressions of Crisp are hard, rash, and unguarded, and he does not leave the holy impression of scripture, though doubtless he did not intend any thing contrary to holiness. Witsius' Book is very satisfactory. Much may be learnt from each side in these discussions. But the general effect of the controversy was seriously prejudicial on the tone of divinity, and the various subtle distinctions concerning justification made by men of talent, learning, and personal holiness, had a most injurious tendency to cast that doctrine into the shade. It began to be shunned as a controversial, difficult, and dangerous topic, instead of being brought forward as a practical, experimental, life-giving truth; the grand fundamental of genuine Christianity, and the all-quickenning spring of holiness. It seems not to have been revived for a lengthened period.

The vital principles of the gospel being thus abandoned, nothing was left to be a sufficient guard against various kinds of error.

Dr. Sherlock in 1673 published a discourse on the knowledge of Jesus Christ, attacking Dr. Owen's work on communion with God, and maintaining a very lowered and unscriptural tone of religion. This led to Owen's Reply, Alsop's Antisozzo, and Polhill's Answer, with several others, containing, without defending every thing, valuable elucidations of the evangelical doctrines which Sherlock opposed.

From 1680 to 1690 controversies were maintained with great spirit on the subject of popery which produced an extended defence of the Reformation, and tended to bring Protestants more to Reformation *principles*. Bishop Gibson's *Preservative* embodies

several valuable Protestant pamphlets, and though wanting in the evangelical spirit of the Reformation, as far as strong argument and just reasoning go, it furnishes an armoury of weapons against popery.

In 1697, a controversy arose respecting the powers and rights of the Convocation, in which Wake, Atterbury, Burnet, Hody, Kennet, Gibson, and Hooper, were concerned. Archbishop Wake's concluding work, the *State of the Church*, published in 1703, has been considered decisive with regard to the controversy. Such subjects are of little spiritual profit to Christians in general.

A similar contention arose a few years afterwards. In 1715 Bishop Hoadley, then Bishop of Bangor, published a *Preservative* against the principles and practices of the non-jurors, and shortly after preached a sermon on the words, *My kingdom is not of this world*, which produced what was called the Bangorian Controversy. He was considered as the patron and champion of misnamed liberal principles. His object was so show that the clergy had no authority in the government of the church, and the controversy afterwards changed from the rights of the clergy to that of the princes. Law's Reply in his three letters to the Bishop is worth reading; but though it has been said that the controversy tended to confirm our civil and ecclesiastical liberties, it is one in the study of which precious time may be lost, and by which men's minds were diverted from vital principles. The violence of the disputes that arose on these occasions led to the setting aside of the Convocation, which has not since acted. Was there not a want of evangelical principles both in high and low church; and was not Christ, the *only point of union* for all Christians, too much lost

The opposition of Socinians was not met by evangelical piety and learning and wisdom of days. Dr. Sherlock published in 1691 a *Vir* of the Trinity with objectionable sentiments

¹ Mr. Bowman gives the following view of the case beginning of the 18th century Arminianism was sensibly decline. It had introduced Socinianism soon after the R which within a few years prevailed over it; so that Soci more numerous than the Arminians. Socinianism u Arianism. But the Socinians having received a check, licly stigmatized by the Toleration Act in 1689, were speak with some caution and reserve. This perhaps was to the Arian interest, for it soon became predominant, s the commencement of the present age the fashionable rel 'Subscription to the Articles was an impediment in the Arians, till one of them declared, 'the Articles may la conscientiously be subscribed in any sense in which they by their own interpretation can reconcile them to Scrip out regard to the meaning and interpretation either of t who first compiled them, or who now impose them.'¹

Even the pacific Wake, in a letter to the superintendent in 1719, thus writes—'They to whom the preservation of is committed, and whose duty it is to watch against her or to reprove, restrain, and punish them, according to thei even these endeavour to overthrow the authority of th These men are highly displeased with all confessions of with all subscriptions to Articles, and would have a liber a licence granted for all men, not only to believe, bu write, and preach, what they think fit, though the g Holy Spirit, the divinity of Christ, and all other A Articles of our religion should thereby be overturned.'

unintended on with bitterness by Dr. South. This led to a Defence, and a Rejoinder, and a censure of Dr. Sherlock's views by the University of Oxford, which irritated the parties more till government interposed. Mr. Howe wrote a *Calm Inquiry*, in opposition to Dr. Sherlock's view.¹

In 1695, William the Third addressed the Archbishop and Bishops on differences among the clergy, about the Trinity, which had then arisen, and which, it was stated, might be of dangerous consequence, if not timely prevented. It was directed, 'That no preacher whatsoever, in his sermon or lecture, do presume to deliver any other topic concerning the great and fundamental truths of our most holy religion and particularly concerning the Trinity, than what are contained in the Holy Scriptures, and are agreeable to the three creeds and the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion.'² It was stated, in the Address of 1695, that books and pamphlets were written and published against the Trinity, and industriously spread through the kingdom, by persons not of the clergy.

In April, 1699, the Archbishop of Canterbury (Tenison) addressed the Bishops on the 'sensible growth of vice and profaneness in the nation; which, to the great affliction of all good men, appears not only in the corrupt practices of particular persons, but also in the endeavours that are used to subvert the general principles of our holy religion. And this with a boldness and openness far beyond the example of past

¹ See his Works, Vol. iv. p. 299.

² A similar direction was issued by George I. in 1721, when Whiston published his *Arian Sentiments*. Tindale's Continuation, Vol. xv. p. 301, and Vol. xix. p. 423.

times.' The methods suggested as most likely to work a reformation are a pious example, prudence in their behaviour, a thorough acquaintance with the rational grounds of Christianity, meetings of the clergy to gain over influential persons, ecclesiastical censures, the punishment of the civil magistrate, information against ministers of irregular lives, and diligence in catechising children. Nothing is said about the real root of the decay, a departure from the doctrines of the gospel ; and therefore the only effectual remedy is kept out of sight.

The Cambridge Tracts on Predestination, published at the University Press, in 1719 (in which was included a bitter work of Wornock's), mark the change that had taken place from the days of Whitgift, when Baro was condemned for the very opinions which were then sent from the University Press, as 'the productions of the champions of our communion.'

Men now ministered in the sanctuary of the Church of England, and held even some of its highest dignities (such as Clarke, Hoadley, Clayton, &c.) whose writings tend to weaken those fundamental truths respecting the Trinity, in which all who hold the head, agree. When Dr. Waterland expressed his astonishment that Dr. Clarke could subscribe to Trinitarian articles, Dr. Clarke retorted his wonder how Dr. Waterland could do the same with his views against Calvinism.

The Arian controversy, in this country, arose from Mr. Whiston's publications, in 1710, and the following years ; and from Dr. Clarke's scripture doctrine of the Trinity, in 1712. It led to some valuable vindications of the Trinity, by writers from Dr. Waterland down to Mr. Jones of Nayland, though it is to be regretted that it was defended critically rather than

practically; as a theory of immense moment, indeed, but little traced out in the experimental and holy use of it in the Christian life.¹

None of these controversies therefore, nor even the excellent societies formed about this time, under Bishop Beveridge and Dr. Horneck, called the Societies for the Reformation of Manners, however the labours of good men retarded the decline of piety, effected any marked or extensive revival of religion.

Seeing the inconsistency of subscribing to Articles which they professedly did not believe, an association was formed, in which clergymen were associated, called, 'The Feathers' Tavern Association,' for obtaining relief from subscription to the Thirty-Nine Articles. To promote the objects designed by this Association, Archdeacon Blackburn published the Confessional, in 1766. It occasioned a lengthened controversy, in which seventy or eighty pamphlets were published, and Paley took a part in favour of the relief. It proceeded to an application to Parliament, in 1772, which was rejected by a majority of 217 against 71. It was however there treated, not as a religious, but as a political question. Mr. Rotherham's answer to the Confessional is published in 'The Churchman Armed,' and Bishop Conybeare's able sermon in the *Enchiridion Theologicum*. The controversy distinctly marks the decline in the principles of the

¹ Thus the sacred writers ever mention it; thus St. Paul states it: *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with you all.* Thus Jude puts it: *Building up yourselves on your most holy FAITH, praying in the HOLY GHOST, keep yourselves in the love of GOD, looking for the mercy of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST unto eternal life.* Thus St. Peter: *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.*

Reformation. It was not now a scruple about the ceremony, but a rejection of the doctrine. Some of those who defended the Articles thought they might be amended, but the time was not favourable.

In the writings of Johnson, Brett, Hicks, Archibald Campbell, and similar writers, from 1700 to 1750, if the Author may judge from very limited knowledge, we see a tendency to bring in again some doctrines, if not papal, yet having a strong leaning to that system, under the idea of conformity to the primitive church. There is in such writers devotion, sincerity, and learning, the anxiety of a mind awakened to the value of the soul; but you find not a display of the sufficiency and simplicity of the gospel remedy.

Some farther remarks on writers, who lived at the latter part of this period, will be added, before we give testimonies to its general effects.

There are some lovely characters of primitive piety, such as Bishop Wilson, who died in 1755; men who adorned the gospel of Christ in their lives, though their writings fail of exhibiting fully the essential doctrines of the gospel. The divinity current in their days accounts for this deficiency; and there is enough to show that they still did hold these doctrines. Oh! that all who prominently professed them, walked as worthy of the gospel, as did the holy, and devout, and practical Bishop Wilson! ¹

¹ This godly Bishop's Prayer will be acceptable to the pious student.

BEFORE STUDY.

O God! the Fountain of all wisdom! in a deep sense of my own ignorance, and of the great charge which lies upon me, I am constrained to come often before Thee, from whom I have learned whatever I know, to ask that help without which I shall disquiet myself in vain. Most humbly beseeching Thee to guide me with Thine eye, and enlighten my mind, that I may see myself, and teach

William Law, who died in 1761, was a powerful writer. With a strong and vigorous intellect, he irresistibly maintains the claims of religion, and shows the inconsistencies of nominal Christians, and urgently exhorts all men to a holy and devout life. But with his views of the reasonableness and necessity of a holy life, and his want of perception of those all-refreshing and comforting views of the gospel, which distinguish the Apostolic writings and the writings of the Reformers, or at least keeping them, as he did, in the back-ground, it is not surprising that he fell into the reveries of Behmen, and ended in mysticism. No strength of mind, no justness of conception as to the importance of practical holiness, can supply the lack of the grace of the gospel. He who knows us best, and how best to recover us to Himself, has provided for us a High Priest, *touched with a feeling of our infirmities*, and never can we be brought nigh to God but by Him *who is the way, the truth, and the life*.

Bishop Warburton was another prelate of these times of remarkable powers of mind and extensive learning. His *Julian* is a valuable work; and his *Alliance of the Church and State*, and his *Divine*

others the wonders of Thy law; that I may learn from Thee what I ought to think and speak concerning Thee. Direct and bless all the labours of my mind; give me a discerning spirit, a sound judgment, and an honest and religious heart; and grant that in all my studies my FIRST aim may be to set forth Thy glory, and to set forward the salvation of mankind; that I may give a comfortable account of my time at the great day, when all our labours shall be tried.

And if Thou art pleased that by my ministry sinners shall be converted, and Thy kingdom enlarged, give me the grace of humility, that I may never ascribe the success to myself, but to Thy Holy Spirit, which enables me to will and to do according to Thy good pleasure. Grant this, O Father of all light and truth! for the sake of Jesus Christ.¹

¹ See Stowell's *Life of Wilson*, 2nd edit. 1822, p. 295, 298.

Legation (however we may differ from some of his main principles), cannot be read without being sensible of the vigour of his intellect, or without enlarging the mind.¹ It is said that Bishop Bull was his master, and Jeremy Taylor his favourite divine. Yet that it is possible to have all the powers of Warburton, and be greatly in the dark on the truths of the gospel, is made sufficiently evident, by his Treatise on the Doctrine of Grace.² He considered the teaching office of the Holy Ghost to be completed in the scriptures; and that his sanctifying and comforting offices are chiefly confined to charity.³

The writers of this class still hold some main doctrines of the gospel. Even Dr. Clarke maintains the atonement, and admits the gift of the Spirit as needful for all Christians, in every age, to produce moral dispositions and habits of mind; but, in the striking description of Cecil, 'Clarke has above all other men the faculty of lowering the life and spiritual sense

¹ There is a review of it in Graves' Lectures on the Pentateuch, Vol. ii. p. 142—154. See also Dr. Johnson's discriminating character of Warburton, in his Life of Pope.

² See, for answers to this, among others, Payne's Letter to the Bishop of Gloucester; and the Scripture Doctrine of Saving Grace, by the Rev. John Andrews, 12mo. 1769.

³ He cannot have much understood the reproach of the cross, ever attendant on vital godliness, who, in assigning a reason for an abatement of the influences of the supporting spirit of grace, could say: 'Now the profession of the Christian faith is attended with ease and honour, and the conviction, which the weight of human testimony and the conclusions of human reason afford us, of its truth, are abundantly sufficient to support us in our religious perseverance.'¹ Dr. Bentley said of the first volume of Warburton's Legation: 'This man has a monstrous appetite, with a very bad digestion.' Of his writings, Mr. Jones thought, 'Neither religion nor learning will ever derive much benefit, nor the Christian world any considerable edification from them.'

¹ Doctrine of Grace, p. 114.

of scripture to such perfection, as to leave it like dry bones, divested of every particle of marrow or oil.'

Men in leading situations had manifestly fallen back from sound doctrine. The sentiments of Archbishop Drummond, in 1760, mark the decline of vital religion. He exhorts the friend to whom he wrote to keep this fundamental principle always in mind, 'That the gracious designs of God towards mankind are conditional, never superseding, but always exciting and co-operating with the endeavours of men, as free, rational, and accountable agents.' Admitting that there is a sense in which this is true, yet the additional observations upon it throw a slight on the leading doctrines of the gospel. He says, 'If this be true (as I believe it to be, if I mistake not both the nature of God and man), and if this were always kept in view, we should hear little of many intricate and senseless questions about the influences of the spirit, the power of grace, predestination, imputed righteousness, justification without works, and other opinions, which have from the beginning perplexed and perverted, debased, defiled, and wounded Christianity, which is in itself the most rational, pure, and plain system of faith and practice levelled to the capacities and hopes of all men.' Would our Reformers have spoken in this way? Are not St. Paul's epistles full of these subjects? Though metaphysicians may have involved them with intricate questions, yet scriptural subjects should not be thus disparaged; Church of England doctrines should not be so stated, by one of the Archbishops of our country, as to be confounded with opinions which have debased, defiled, and wounded Christianity.

It was an indication of the low state to which divinity had sunk, that a *Bishop* of our church, useful by his

replies to Payne and Gibbon, should publish such a collection as Bishop Watson did in 1785, of Theological Tracts for the instruction of younger students in divinity. His list of books recommended to the clergy manifests this inferior state of religion. There is learning enough indeed, and that truly valuable, but comparatively little of that evangelical, experimental, and spiritual class of books, which faithful ministers find so eminently useful, and much of that which is merely critical. Works tending to, if not directly Socinian, are praised; while works of high value, such as Calvin's Commentaries, are unnoticed. Among his Tracts are Taylor's system of divinity, Clarke on Natural Religion, and Taylor's Key to the Romans.¹

Real religion was sinking fast through the country; Mr. Knox, in his Christian Philosophy, has brought

¹ The Enchiridion Theologicum of Bishop Randolph, published in 1792, was of a much superior character, and brought forward many valuable works of the Reformers.

It shows the character of the divinity of that day, that a Regius Professor of divinity in the University, and a Bishop of our church should give such a statement respecting the fundamentals of religion as any Socinian could join in.¹

'We as Christians are under no uncertainty as to the Being of a God; as to his moral government of the world; as to the terms on which sinners may be reconciled to him; as to the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; as to a resurrection from the dead; as to a future state of retribution; nor with respect to other important questions, concerning which the wisest of the Heathen Philosophers were either wholly ignorant, or had no settled notions. But there are other subjects on which the Academicorum *ερωχη* may be admitted, I apprehend, without injuring the foundations of our religion. Such are the questions which relate to the power of evil spirits to suspend the laws of nature, or to actuate the minds of men; to the materiality or immateriality of the human soul; the state of the dead before the general resurrection; the resurrection of the same body; the duration of future punishments, and many others of the same kind. Some one will think that I here speak too freely, and accuse me probably as an encourager of sceptical and latitudinarian

¹ See Vol. i. T. Tracts, Preface, p. xvi.

together a good deal of information on the great deficiency of Christian doctrines, and the evil consequences of it, and presses powerfully the importance of seeking divine teaching. He employs stronger language than we have ventured to use, and observes, that he who receives divine teaching 'will find that some of the most learned men, the most voluminous writers on theological subjects, were TOTALLY IGNORANT OF CHRISTIANITY. He will find that they were ingenious heathen philosophers assuming the name of Christians, and forcibly paganizing Christianity for the sake of pleasing the world, of extending their fame, and enjoying secular honours, and lucrative pre-eminence.'¹

This departure from the principles of Christianity was very injurious to real learning. We find not the extent of research, the depth of thought, and the accumulated knowledge of former ages in the writers of this period. Archbishop Secker, in his Synodal Oration in 1761 observes, that 'the present age is not sufficiently given to reading books, especially the more ancient and those of more profound argument, nor to deep thought or laborious writing.'

principles. What! shall the church of Christ never be freed from the narrow-minded contentions of bigots; from the insults of men who know not what spirit they are of, when they would stint the Omnipotent in the exercise of his mercy, and bar the doors of heaven against every sect but their own?' It is very easy to throw off a supposed accusation, by such a retort; but this furnishes no answer to those who firmly, yet with Christian love, maintain principles which they believe God has clearly revealed as essential to salvation.

¹ Though it will be obvious that the Author does not concur in all Mr. Knox's sentiments, he doubts not that his work of Christian Philosophy has rendered valuable service to divinity, and the honesty, and openness, and extent of research evinced by this Author, call for just commendation.

This departure was, as might be expected, accompanied with a loss of the holy influence of real Christianity.

This decay in piety has been testified by many of acknowledged excellence. Bishop Berkeley says, in a sermon preached in 1731, 'From the time that divinity was considered as a science, and human reason enthroned in the sanctuary of God, the hearts of its professors seem to have been less under the influence of grace.'¹

Bishop Butler, in the Advertisement to his Analogy, published in 1736, says—'It is come, I know not how, to be taken for granted by many persons, that Christianity is not so much an object of inquiry, but that it is now at length discovered to be fictitious. And accordingly, they treat it as if in the present age, this was an agreed point among all people of discernment, and nothing remained but to set it up as a principal subject of mirth and ridicule, as it were by way of reprisals for having so long interrupted the pleasures of the world.'²

¹ See his Works, Vol. iii. p. 254.

² The Rev. D. Wilson has published a very valuable Introduction to Butler's Analogy. It fully proves that this able writer who thus describes the growth of infidelity, was deficient in clearly inculcating the doctrines of the gospel, and shows in a particular instance, very much the nature of that general decline which we are now considering. Mr. Wilson says, 'Those who preach and write in the temper, and on the scheme which we are opposing do not use naturally and habitually the language of St. Paul and the other Apostles. This language does not fall in with their system, does not express what they mean; and therefore except when compelled by circumstances, their theological scheme avoids the scriptural phraseology, and is formed in a different school.' He mentions the terms 'virtue, vice, honest men, satisfaction of virtue, viciousness of the world,' being used instead of 'the scriptural terms, holiness, sin, renewed man, peace of conscience, corruption, and wickedness of the world.' Butler's particular object led him indeed to a more guarded phraseology.

Archbishop Secker,¹ in his *Sermons*, (Vol. i. p. 59.) says, perhaps about 1758, 'It is a reproach I believe peculiar to the Christians of this age and nation, that many of them seem ashamed of their Christianity, and excuse their piety as others do their vices.' This was not more injurious to piety than it was to the established church. In one of his charges Archbishop Secker says, 'We have in fact lost many of our people to sectaries by not preaching in a manner sufficiently evangelical.' See his 3d Charge p. 267. Some farther testimonies of this decline in religion are given below.²

¹ The very excellence of such prelates as Archbishop Secker makes it the more necessary to point out the defects of their writings. There appears to the author an obscurity in his mode of stating the doctrines of the gospel. In his sermon on Confirmation, after mentioning our fall, not with the strength of our Articles and Homilies, and the faint hopes that reason might give, the Archbishop proceeds, 'Most happily the Revelation of his holy word has cleared up all those doubts of unassisted reason, and offered to the worst of sinners, on the condition of faith in Christ, and productive of good works, (for all which he is ready to enable us,) a covenant of pardon for sins past, assistance against sin for the future, and eternal life in return for a sincere though imperfect and totally undeserving obedience.'

Now admitting that the expressions, 'for all which he is ready to enable us,' and 'totally undeserving,' include divine grace, and exclude human merit; yet another expression, 'in return for,' throws an unscriptural aspect on the passage; and the whole statement is far below that clear, explicit, full declaration of divine grace on the same subject, which we have in Ephes. ii. 1—10. which carefully gives all the glory of our salvation to God, and yet effectually secures good works as the fruit of his grace.

² Archbishop Secker in his first charge, in 1738, after allowing the proneness of men to complain of their times, says, 'In this we cannot be mistaken, that an open and professed disregard to religion is become, through a variety of unhappy causes, the distinguishing character of the present age, that this evil is grown to a great height in the metropolis of the nation; is daily spreading through every part of it, and bad in itself as any can be, must of necessity bring in, anon, others after it. Indeed it has already brought in

Bishop. Lavington. may be introduced as an unexceptionable testimony on this point. He addressing the clergy, (somewhere about 1750.) brethren, I beg you will rise up with me against preaching. WE HAVE LONG BEEN ATTEMPTING REFORMATION OF THE NATION BY DISCOURAGING THIS KIND. WITH WHAT SUCCESS? NONE AT ALL. ON THE CONTRARY WE HAVE DEEMED PREACHED THE PEOPLE INTO DOWNRIGHT IDOLATRY. We must change our voice. We preach Christ and him crucified. Nothing but gospel is, nothing besides will be found to be power of God unto salvation. Let me therefore and again request, may I not add, let me charge to preach Jesus and salvation through his name.'

Bishop. Horne says, in his Apologies published 1756,²—'It is the complaint of hundreds of Christians, that there is at present a lamentable fi

such dissoluteness and contempt of principle in the higher world, and such profligate intemperance and fearless committing crimes in the lower as must, if this torrent of it stop not, become absolutely fatal. And God knows far from pining, it receives through the ill designs of some persons, and inconsiderateness of others, a continual increase. Christianity now ridiculed and railed at with very little reserve, and the tenets of it without any at all.'

Dr. Trapp, who was opposed by Mr. Law and Mr. Whitfield, and considered the organ of right sentiment by many, gives evidence goes to the same point. 'Scarcely any thing,' he says, 'has years been more prejudicial to religion, than the neglect of the theological part of it, properly so called; and it is very greatly lamented that some writers even of our own church, out of undue fervour in opposing some erroneous doctrines of Calvin, run into the other extreme, and have too little regarded the salutary doctrines of religion.'¹

¹ Quoted by Knox.

² See Life by Jones, p. 88.

¹ Preface to Preservative against unsettled Notions.

from the ~~old~~ way of preaching and expounding the word of God.' In alluding to critical works, (which perhaps too much undervalued,) he 'thought it of service to turn the minds of men more to the letter of the Bible, when they were already too much turned away from the spirit of it. The best fruits of divine wisdom may be gathered from the word of God in any language, and in any edition. To what the Scripture itself calls the Spirit of the Scripture, the learned of late days were become much more inattentive than in past ages.' He mentions Clarke, Hoadley, Hare, Middleton, Warburton, Sherlock, South, W. Law, Edmund Law, and many others who fell totally into other ways of studying and reasoning. The general statements of Bishop Horne, and his biographer, Jones, illustrate the remarks which we have been making.

Bishop Horne's views of preaching, not always (alas! such is our common infirmity) fully illustrated by his own sermons, are instructive. 'To preach practical sermons, as they are called, that is sermons upon virtues and vices, without inculcating those great scripture truths of redemption, grace, &c. which alone incite and enable us to forsake sin, and to follow after righteousness, what is it, but to put together the wheels, and set the hands of a watch, forgetting the spring which is to make them all go.'

Dean Milner remarks, in the life of his brother published in 1802, 'Formerly this country abounded with divines who were strenuous and able advocates for the Establishment, who were orthodox in their faith, and who also were diligent and zealous in the practical application of their principles. Of late years there have not been wanting orthodox members

of the church, who have also shown themselves powerful defenders of ecclesiastical institutions ; but the persons of this description have not usually been industrious, earnest, plain, and practical preachers of the essential articles of the Christian faith. They seem to have contented themselves with supporting the outworks of religion, and with occasional declarations of orthodoxy, and almost to have forgotten that whatever in its aim stops short of thoroughly awakening the consciences of men, of subduing their natural corruptions, and of producing *a peculiar people zealous of good works*, is not the gospel of Christ, that *power of God unto salvation* which St. Paul preached.' He afterwards speaks of this as amounting on the part of many of the clergy to a DANGEROUS DEPARTURE from sound doctrine ; but states that it prevailed some thirty or forty years ago, more than then.—Page cv.

Infidelity arose and flourished in the decline of gospel principles. The way in which infidels were met equally marks the decline. The best mode of opposing Hobbes and Shaftesbury, does not seem to have been adopted. They were answered mainly on the grounds of reason. Christ with all His blessings, as manifesting his divine glory, and alone meeting every varied want of fallen man, was little exhibited as the grand internal evidence of religion. The Bible was rather defended, than used and improved. This great deficiency is too much the characteristic of the admirable defences of the outworks in the able works of Leland.

It will be evident from the various testimonies thus given, that there was a serious falling away from pure doctrine in the English Church. Whatever material,

or incidental and lesser excellencies, we may admit, there is a lack of the main spring of holy conduct. Christ is not the sum and substance: the doctrines which God eminently blesses to the conversion of sinners; the great and peculiar features of Christianity; man's apostacy, ruin, and inability; redemption by the blood of Christ, and salvation by grace, through faith; free justification, adoption, sanctification by the Holy Spirit, if not opposed, if implied, or if expressed, are still not prominently, urgently, and clearly exhibited, as in the scriptures. Religion was enforced by many of this class, rather on the ground of its reasonableness and excellence, than from its divine authority. Divines seemed to hope to prevail by argument, wisdom, and talent, rather than by simply exhibiting God's truths as His ordinance for our salvation, and His only remedy for our diseased and ruined souls. Their example had a farther bad effect, as it introduced very widely an unscriptural statement of divine truth. It was a statement little calculated to offend the natural man, and therefore gladly adopted by such as had not themselves experienced the grace of God, or aimed merely to discharge clerical duties respectably and creditably.

But still we would be far from denying the piety, or, to a certain extent, the usefulness of the writers to whom we have referred. Many of them were deeply religious. A little light may guide a man to heaven who follows that light, while he who neglects to do so, may perish in the full blaze of the gospel. Perhaps this class has been undervalued by some. A wise student will gladly avail himself of all real helps. To improve the mode of stating divine truth by a clearer and plainer style of writing, and by greater simplicity.

was very desirable. It was a praiseworthy effort to free religion from the trammels of a show of learning, and of merely human distinctions. The defence of the outworks of religion, and sacred criticism, have been much advanced by writers who have been of little use as practical divines. The writings of those who have but rarely refreshed the hearts with a fine glow of evangelical sentiment, are still exceedingly useful in these and many other respects. And though we must ever remember, *other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, Jesus Christ*, yet very different superstructures may be built upon it. Men of real piety have maintained very different sentiments on inferior, though important points in religion. We do not, as Protestants, claim infallibility on inferior points, though we all adhere to one standard—the Bible. We know in whom we have believed, and while with regard to our own sentiments, we say *Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind*; with regard to others, we say, *Whereunto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing*. We gather useful lessons from the experience of past ages, and without harshly condemning in the mass or in particular, men who followed the system which we have reviewed; we may derive much instruction from having the opportunity of knowing the result of a system which does not make Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, the leading topic: it produced a general decay of vital religion, notwithstanding the piety, the talents, the wisdom, the superior eloquence, and the liberal sentiments of its leading advocates.

How insufficient every human scheme is, (however commended by all that is amiable and learned, and however designed to guard against real abuses) how

utterly ineffective every system, except the simple gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, dying for sinners, to maintain and carry forward the Church of God ! The merely rational system of religion without the peculiarities of the Bible, is both inefficient and injurious. Talk they of policy ? the simplicity of scriptural truth is the best policy. See what it did in Luther. You may perhaps, by human wisdom, escape the reproach of the cross, gain the admiration of man, rise to the highest ranks of human honour and emolument, but you part with truth, you lose your usefulness, you deteriorate the gospel, and you injure the cause of God. You may have the star-light of a cold, frosty night, but you lose the cheering, enlivening, and fructifying warmth of the glorious sun. What if the outworks are defended, where is the advantage, if those within the citadel withhold from us the privileges and the blessings of the kingdom. May the witnesses for Christ never hand down to posterity a lifeless, inefficient, and human system, which thousands shall unprofitably follow, instead of the life-giving, and divine gospel, the power of God unto salvation !

There was a similar decline in SCOTLAND. WITHERSPOON, in his Ecclesiastical Characteristics, with a fine vein of irony and delicate humour, exposes this. His descriptions relate to the state of the Scotch church in the middle of the eighteenth century, and from this account, it appears to have been as low as the English church at that time. He observes that it was a necessary part of the character of a moderate man, never, but with a sneer, to speak of the Confession of Faith (the standard of divinity in the Scotch church) ; to confine his subjects to social duties,

circumstances than only from rational considerations, and draw his authorities chiefly from heathen writers.¹

Aristotle declines on the Continent, the Pagan sect to have been much honoured in promoting religion. The main instruments of this, were Agrippa (who died in 1535) Spencer (who died in 1704), and French (who died in 1722). They were instrumental of effecting a partial revival of religion which produced considerable effect, and was connected with a pure sense of divinity. Particulars of this will be found in Gillies' Historical Collections, and the Pictæ Hærentes of French. See also Pusey's Historical Enquiry, but Infidelity, however, under the mask of Christianity, greatly spread. It was exceedingly promoted on the Continent by Semler, of whom Combe says, 'All or nearly all the essential elements of his system, rather of the objections which he made to the system actually acquired in by his countrymen, not drawn from Arian and Socinian writers of other nations; sometimes it should seem from sources yet more objectionable.' He mentions Professor Knapp and Steer, and the Moravian Brethren as opposing this infidel system.²

In a review of the whole of this period, we cannot then say that the student will find no advantage from the various writers of whom we have been speaking. Admirable lessons, as we have seen, may be learnt from many of these authors, and especially those of the superior class; you have the reasonableness and beauty of Christian morality,

¹ See Works, Vol. viii. p. 28.

² Mr. Pusey gives a more favourable view of Semler.—See Historical Enquiry, pp. 137—147.

though you are generally left without a due statement of that which alone to fallen sinners gives life and power to the precept; you have the defence of the external system, though you have not the light and glory which render its excellence self-evident. The spirit of writers has been more Catholic, and there has been less contention about minor points. If there be less originality and depth, there is ordinarily more correctness of expression. Sound criticism of the sacred text has, both on the continent and in this country, been much advanced, and the subject of the evidences of religion has, in consequence of the attacks of infidels, been placed in many new and striking lights.

May we not learn from such a review not to be carried away by mere authority of station. Sincere, affectionate, and ready respect is always due to those in authority; but let us remember, that it does not necessarily follow, because men have been in high official situations in any church, that therefore their sentiments accord either with the scriptures, or the avowed doctrines of that church to which they belong. Many writers holding important offices in a church, have as we have seen, departed very far from its principles, and there have been many outwardly of a different communion, who have held and defended all its doctrines.

There was all along (not ordinarily in prominent and leading situations, with the exception of Reynolds, Hopkins, and Beveridge, and some others) a class of writers and preachers who continued to uphold and diffuse evangelical principles, with the distinctness and clearness of better days. Some have already been noticed, *and such writers as Polhill and Jenks in our*

own country, and Claude, Venema, Spanheim, Witsius, Vitringa, Turretin, and Franck in foreign countries still fully proclaimed the distinguishing doctrines of the gospel.

The Author has thus, with the utmost plainness and openness, stated his views on a subject, not less difficult than delicate. He has endeavoured to give the best judgment, which, after much consideration, he could form, and throws himself on the candour and kindness of readers, who, knowing more than himself, will know also how to make just allowances for such an attempt.

It is delightful to think of the higher and richer song of praise which we may believe, many of those on whose writings we have made these free remarks, are now singing:—*unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us to be kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion, for ever and ever.*

SECTION VII.

MODERN WRITERS.

It will be generally allowed, that there has been an extended revival of scriptural divinity within the last century. Its commencement was, as usual in God's dispensations, with a few individuals.

Dr. Buchanan speaks thus on this subject: 'It was about the middle of the last century that INFIDELITY, which had appeared long before, first began to show itself in strong and general operation. It was at a time when the light of Christianity was very

feeble, and it was apprehended that this new adversary would totally extinguish it. But behold the providence of God ! at this very period, there was a revival of religion in England, commencing in the bosom of our own Church. Distinguished preachers arose in succession, men possessing the spirit and eloquence of the first Reformers ; and ‘ the doctrine of the blessed apostle and evangelist St. John,’ was preached with great energy and effect ; multitudes of the people bearing witness by their repentance and conversion to its truth and heavenly power. And it was soon found to be the pure and operative faith of the Primitive Church and of the Reformation ; differing as much from mere profession as the substance from the shadow, and bearing the true character which cannot be feigned, namely, righteousness in life, and peace in death. At the very time when the spirit of infidelity was fostering its strength under the name of philosophy, and preparing for the awful revolutions which followed ; the spiritual religion of Christ began to revive, and has since produced the most beneficial effects.’

He thus sums up those beneficial effects—(1) ‘ An increased knowledge of the Holy Scriptures ; producing (2) a cultivation of the principles of the gospel, and the practice of the virtues of subordination, loyalty, and contentment. (3) The almost universal instruction of the poor : so that it may be truly said, “ the poor have the gospel preached unto them. (4) The more general worship of God in our land ; (5) the publication of the Bible in new languages, and (6) the promulgation of Christianity among all nations, to Jews and Gentiles.”

It may be well more distinctly to mark the progress

of this revival, and let us take the account of an eminent instrument in carrying it forward—the Rev. Joseph Milner : as it regards both his own case and the general state of the Church.

The Author has in his possession a letter from the late Joseph Milner, to Mr. Newton, dated in Sept, 1771, where, speaking of the great evil of mixing the gospel with philosophy, an evil which he had personally felt ; he adds, ‘ Cambridge Metaphysics I am obliged to for much of that enmity and reasoning that have distressed me. In vain did I desire, when God shewed me the gospel, in some measure to preserve a good understanding between the Scripture and King’s Origin of Evil, Locke, Clarke, and other Metaphysicians, which I had read with greediness, digested with kind affection, and remembered, and still remember, with obstinate retention. The affair of free-will particularly has cost me many a pang. In short, by bitter experience, rather than reasoning, I have been convinced, that if man be saved, it must be by free-grace, in the proper and full sense of the words. What signifies reasoning against facts ? I found I could not believe, I could not perform duties, I was sure to break every resolution ; I could not change my heart, I was overborne irresistibly, and disappointed in all I attempted. I hope you go on with your people rejoicing in the Lord, and that more and more souls are brought over to know Jesus Christ. Here the gospel is in an infant state, yet has it pleased the Lord to bless my labours in a good degree, and direct them to His own glory : dark myself, I have been made the means of giving light to others ; and when I have been myself so little affected with what I have said, that I have been

accusing myself of hypocrisy, how have I been astonished at the power with which it has been made to strike others.'

The Author has also in his possession a manuscript sermon of the late Mr. Milner, on Matt. ix. 36—38, (written probably about the same time) in which, urging the duty of prayer for *more* faithful ministers, he says, 'Look now at a parish, for instance, in which ungodliness, ignorance, and wickedness reign—where the sheep go astray continually, and the shepherd along with them, void himself of any Christian intelligence, and sensibility, and unwilling that his people should have any. The sun shines not on more miserable and more pitiable objects. Pastor and people in this case have scarce an idea of any better situation in religion. In such places, vices of all sorts reign without control, and the Christian religion appears a thing of no importance. You know it is no fancy picture I have been drawing, there are many such parishes in the land.' He speaks in another part of numbers of parishes, nay large tracts in the kingdom, as still walking in darkness and wickedness. He then gives some account of the revival of religion in his day, as an additional motive for prayer—'a great and effectual door is already opened in the Church of England, and the light breaks forth as the morning within her pale. Certainly every candid observer must see that there are at present many more useful, intelligent, and laborious ministers than there were twenty, or thirty years ago. Yet the opposition is great, and we are but in the infancy of things. It is observable, that the real good which has been done of late years in this kingdom, within the Church of England, has been effected chiefly through the means of the inferior

hearts are untouched with such things can well
gine. For they have on the one hand born
burden and heat of the day, in encountering the
rance and prejudice of the people at large, whos
they meant to benefit, and very often the ill-wi
disgust of the dignitaries of the Church, and of
of their clerical brethren whom they would
have owned as zealous fellow-labourers, if truth
permit ; and on the other hand, they have had to
against the encroaching, bigoted, and sectarian
of vast numbers who desire to demolish the C
of England entirely, and raise themselves into
and consequence in its room.² My sole reas
mentioning these things at present, is to give Ch
people a view of the state of things in r
to quicken and animate them to prayer. I c
mean that your prayers should be confined
own Church. Supplicate the Father of m
that he would make his gospel to be known, fe

¹ The considerable change which has since taken place
cheer every reader. There are now living dignitaries who
could not properly be mentioned, and others, like Bishop
gone to their heavenly rest, who have zealously laboured to
the kingdom of Christ.

² It is delightful again to observe, how much more a kind

loved among all who profess the name of Christ, that sinners may know what converting grace means, and that his kingdom may be set up in their hearts.' He proceeds with urging prayers for the spread of the gospel through the world.

These extracts will give some insight into the beginning of that gracious effusion of the Holy Spirit, which has happily distinguished the present time, and has produced an extensive revival of religion.

It arose in the middle of the 18th century, chiefly in the Established Church, though Watts and Doddridge, among dissenters, prepared the way. Some of those with whom it commenced continued with the utmost consistency of conduct their labours in the Church, as Hervey, Walker, Toplady, Romaine, Adam, and Milner; others, as Whitfield and Wesley, &c. were led by the low state of religion in the country to a more irregular system of action. All, notwithstanding minor differences, according to the gifts bestowed on them and the spheres in which they moved, laboured indefatigably to spread the main truths of the Bible, and of the Reformation. So greatly had the knowledge of divinity sunk in our country, that a simple declaration of the doctrines of the Reformation was considered as an indication of a wish and endeavour to overturn a Church, established by the Reformers, and great was the obloquy and reproach which these holy men had to endure, even from those who, by their elevated situations, ought, like the first Reformers in Edward the 6th and Elizabeth's reigns, to have been their defenders and patrons.

Those who were chiefly honoured in accomplishing

this work, were not men of extended learning or deep research ; or having the extraordinary powers of understanding, which distinguished Augustine, Luther, and Calvin. Speaking of the revival of the Reformation in our land at this day, as the last effusion of the Spirit of God, and pointing out the weakness and obscurity of the instruments by which it has been wrought, Milner says, ‘ I question whether human learning and sagacity were ever less employed in a religious work since the Apostle’s days. It should be an instructive lesson to the learned and wise of this kingdom, that while they have scarcely contributed any thing, persons of lower rank and attainments have been instrumental in reclaiming thousands.’ From this fact Milner then takes occasion to put a guard against enthusiasm on the one hand, and reasoning pride on the other.¹

The doctrine of justification was now revived afresh from all the incumbrances with which the learning of Bishop Bull, the metaphysical mind of Baxter, and the unscriptural statements of Tillotson and his followers had oppressed it, and was proclaimed in its simplicity and purity as the divine and healing doctrine of the gospel. As usual, Satan when he could not smother the flame, sought again to give it a wrong direction.¹

¹ Tracts, pp. 303, 304.

¹ Mr. Scott remarks—‘ The honoured instruments whom God employed to revive a more general knowledge of justification by faith were naturally led to insist on the important subject with peculiar earnestness, and in the most energetic language. Some of them were so fully engaged in active services, as to have little leisure for study : and if they sometimes dropped an expression in the vehemence of an honest zeal, which was capable of misconstruction, every candid man must acquit them of intending any thing unfavourable to practical godliness, which they eminently promoted

It is fully allowed that in this revival there were extravagancies and errors; but the true reason of those is not to be found so much in their labours who revived religion, as in the negligence of those who had suffered the people to grow up in ignorance and indifference. A population thus neglected, when suddenly awakened to a sense of religion, easily fell into the snares of the demmy, who ever mingles tares with the wheat. Such works as Warburton's *Doctrine of grace*, and Lavington's *Enthusiasm*, in fact thus condemn not only the enthusiasm of the people, but the negligence of their previous pastors. This revival was not confined to England: Brown, Erskine, and others in Scotland were greatly blessed of God. A similar revival took place in America: Dr. Green, the President of New Jersey College, observes, 'It is known to those who are acquainted with the state of religion in this country (America) about the middle of last century,

and exemplified. But men arose afterwards who attempted to establish unscriptural systems on a few of their detached expressions, and on their fervent addresses to large and affected auditories; or at least to support such systems by their authority, and very respectable persons have been led to patronise and sanction their mistakes. Indeed this was no more than their reacting the same scenes which had been exhibited by the first Reformers from popery and some of their successors; in whose writings the substance of almost all the controversies of these late years was fully discussed.'

'While matters were taking this turn in England, some eminent divines in North America (Edwards, Bellamy, &c.) who had deeply studied these subjects, and had abundant opportunity of observing the practical effects of the different opinions, attempted with great ability to stem the torrent. But in doing this they seem to have gone rather too far, and to have thrown impediments in the sinner's path, when endeavouring with trembling steps to come unto the gracious Saviour.'

he had attempted to undermine. Milner's works altogether are full of instruction to the student.

Mr. Jones of Nayland, who died in 1800, is in many respects a valuable writer, and his *Treatise on the Trinity* is one of the most satisfactory defences of that fundamental doctrine, on the simple testimony of the Holy Scriptures. His *Figurative Language of Scripture*, *Book of Nature*, and other practical works, are (notwithstanding the excess of figurative interpretation) interesting and useful; but towards Dissenters and Calvinists he is painfully bitter. Following *Charles Leslie's* example, he takes partial and unfair views. Such views aggravate an evil which they design to remedy. The Author, however, is delighted to be able to add, on the testimony of a pious friend, (a relative of *Mr. Jones's*,) that in his latter days his prejudices were much softened, and he courted the society of one of more decidedly evangelical sentiments, whom formerly he had despised, and viewed rather with hostility than friendship.

Newton, died in 1807. His conversion was remarkable, and his works manifest that rich Christian experience which such a course as his, under the Divine Spirit, was adapted to give. His letters show great knowledge of the heart, and furnish excellent lessons of Christian wisdom.

Faller died in 1815. He was a writer among the Baptists, but of the same good school of divinity as *Scott*. With a lively imagination and all the powers of a masculine mind, he maintains the distinguishing doctrines of the gospel, and insists on its practical holiness.

Scott died in 1821. He was a man of a strong, re-

flecting, and original mind, gradually compelled, under the teaching of the Divine Spirit, to bow to the force of scriptural truth, and then firmly and steadily following and serving that truth. He was thrown among Antinomians, and was fully alive to all the dangers of their pestilent error. His Commentary was a noble gift to the church of Christ, and furnishes us with the solid interpretation of a man of a powerful mind and great good sense, giving his own views wisely, freely and plainly.

Some who did not hold evangelical principles at first, embraced them afterwards. Thus Paley, in a Visitation Sermon, preached July 17, 1777, on the question, What the expressions in scripture, regenerate, born of the Spirit, new creatures, mean?—answers, ‘Nothing! that is, nothing to us! nothing to be found or sought for in the present circumstances of Christianity!’ It is very gratifying, however, to know that Paley’s views materially changed on this topic before he died; and that, among the sermons directed to be printed after his death, are the following much more scriptural views on conversion. In a sermon on Matt. ix. 13. he says: ‘Of the persons in our congregations, to whom we not only may but must preach the doctrine of conversion plainly and directly, are those who, with the name indeed of Christians, have hitherto passed their lives without any internal religion whatever; who have not at all thought upon the subject, &c. &c. these persons are really in as unconverted a state as any Jew or Gentile could be in our Saviour’s time. . . . These must be converted before they can be saved; the course of their thoughts must be changed, the very principles upon which they act must be changed; . . . There must be a revolution within. A change so

entire, so deep, and so important as this, I do allow to be a conversion; and no one who is in the situation above described, can be saved without undergoing it; and he must necessarily both be sensible of it at the time, and remember it all his life afterward. It is too momentous an event ever to be forgotten. A man might as easily forget his escape from a shipwreck.'

The attacks of the enemies of revelation, as usual, called forth able replies. Infidel writers were met by Leland, Bishop Watson, Dr. Beattie, Paley, and Scott, with many others. The attacks of Dr. Priestley on the main doctrines of the Bible, from 1775 to 1804, led to many successful defences. Those of Bishop Horsley, of the English, and Dr. Jamieson, of the Scotch Church, remain as bulwarks of the faith.

The Refutation of Calvinism, by Bishop Tomline, led to Mr. Scott's Reply, and Dr. Williams' Defence.

Bishop *Horsley's* powers of mind were of a high order; and his sermons, and his other works will render assistance to the student chiefly in the way of criticism. He had the integrity and candour to speak decidedly against the ignorance of many who opposed what they called Calvinistic views.

Robert Hall justly commends the conduct of the pious clergy of this day, on points which once gave rise to so much controversy—the questions relating to predestination and free will, 'on which, equally remote from Pelagian heresy and Antinomian licentiousness, they freely tolerate and indulge a diversity of opinion, embracing Calvinists and Arminians without distinction; provided the Calvinism of the former be practical and moderate, and the Arminianism of the latter evangelical and devout. The greater part of them lean, we believe, to the doctrine of general redemption,

and love to represent the gospel as bearing a friendly aspect toward the eternal happiness of all to whom it is addressed ; but they are much less anxious to establish a polemical accuracy than to win souls to Christ.'¹

It has been noticed that this revival extended to America. The writings of Witherspoon, Bellamy, Hopkins, Davies, and others ; the republication of British works, and the labours of American preachers, seem to have been attended with revivals of religion, and the happiest success.

The better state of things commenced in Germany by the Pietists, and fostered, as we have observed before, has been growing amid the opposition of infidelity and neologian principles (another name for infidelity), and amid all the troubles of the continental wars ; till there seems reason to hope for brighter and better days in these first scenes of the Reformation.

The revival of religion in our country had to encounter much opposition. Many a charge, many a visitation sermon, many a pamphlet, many a periodical publication, and some more bulky works, professing complete refutation, have been issued against its instruments ; but these attacks calling forth able replies, have only strengthened and enlarged that which they were meant to overthrow.

Other authors, such as some that have been named, and Archbishop Sacker, the Lowths, &c., might be added, who without rising to the evangelical simplicity of the Reformers, have, by general correctness of sentiment, and by real piety or superior talent and learning, strengthened a cause which they did not

¹ See his *Reviews*, p. 104.

avowedly join. This was the case also with some others who were, even in part, hostile to this revival.

The chain of evangelical writers has continued unbroken to our day. Serle, Robinson, Cecil, the Venna, Buchanan, Richardson, and others departed, have left writings that will long continue to edify the church. It may be noticed also, that many evangelical principles (such as the all-important one of justification by faith) are much more generally admitted by all classes.

The Author feels it an ungrateful task, from which he shrinks, to mention those of another class, who (however, in some respects, their writings may be original and valuable, and even eminently serviceable, as it regards the externals of religion) have been far from advancing the holy and evangelical principles on which our church and the church of Christ are founded; and have even maintained, in some things, views which we cannot but consider adverse to them. It was an indication of that departure from the spirit of the Reformation, which we have noticed in the previous section, that, in the modernized edition of the Homilies, published by Sir Adam Gordon, in 1795, the doctrine of justification by faith was altered from the same doctrine, as maintained in the original Homilies, so as to include good works, as part of the ground of our dependence; and yet this edition was recommended by one bishop, and has been quoted, in controversial writings, as an authentic testimony of the sentiments of our Reformers.

The Author cannot mention living writers; but it would be easy to select from the lists of books given in a subsequent chapter of this work a delightful catalogue of those who have, in more extended publica-

tions in our own day, advanced and maintained evangelical and practical religion, whilst others have been serviceable in various degrees to the church by critical and learned treatises, or who have ably opposed the Roman Catholics.

The Wesleyans, as a body, have not been without their share of valuable writings, as many of the works of Wesley, Fletcher, Benson, Drew, and others, sufficiently show. The Author has already stated his own views on points on which he differs from the excellent men to whom he here refers; but he would be sorry not to state that there are many truly valuable works among this class of Christians, and much of real learning, elevated piety, fervent zeal, and deep spirituality of mind.

Modern dissenters have fully partaken of the improvements of the times, and many of their works furnish invaluable helps in theology. The doctrinal Articles of the Church of England are strenuously upheld by the great body of pious dissenters. Not to allude to living authors, Gill, Booth, Lavington, Bogue, Williams, Ryland, with many others that might be mentioned, have left writings that, making every allowance for diversity of sentiments on inferior points, will furnish much information and edification to the student.

Scotland has also furnished its help to sound divinity in this age. The writings of Professor Campbell, though not distinguished for a rich exhibition of the grace of the gospel, are manifestly the works of an upright conscientious mind: those of the Erskines, Jamieson, and Maclaurin, are of a higher cast, and will amply repay perusal: Brown of Had-

dington, will ever be a favourite author, from his extensive scriptural knowledge.

America has continued to furnish valuable divines. Dwight's theology, while we agree not in its statements on church government and long to see in it more of that divine unction which draws the heart to the full enjoyment of communion with God in Christ, is still the work of a powerful and original mind, holding scriptural views of divine truth. Several valuable critical works have recently appeared in America.

Some have seriously feared, that the revival of which we have spoken, and which has hitherto but partially prevailed in the British churches, has already begun to decline. It is true that the profession of evangelical principles has spread much more widely, and thence the waters may not be so deep. There is always through human corruption a tendency to deterioration. Are not Christians now too anxious to make every thing clear to reason? It is a day of concession, and there is danger of conceding vital points. Classes of men are not so distinct. Faithful Christians are not so separate and united. There is less of the reproach of the cross, and this may not spring from the greater diffusion of religion, but from the greater laxity of the religious.

These things show us at any rate the need of great watchfulness, and of close adherence to the word of God. Many also, have as yet felt little of the influence of this revival except as it respects an increased attention to external duties, and to general learning. In these, and other things of a similar kind, where there has not been a direct, there has been

a collateral influence, very much connected with the revived doctrines of the Reformation.

But we must not enlarge. On a review of the whole, we may look to the Reformers for the best mode of stating doctrine ; to the Puritans for answering the objections of enemies of the gospel, and dissecting the inward recesses of the heart, and distinguishing hypocrites ; to the subsequent school for a just mode of language and expression ; to recent writers for candour and freedom from the shackles of system ; and may we not trust, that divinity, in its highest sense, as that heavenly wisdom which declares to us the way of eternal life by Christ Jesus, is indeed reviving among us.

It may assist us in forming a comparative judgment of the present state of divinity, to contrast some publications of a similar class which have been published in different periods of the church. There are three works, (the *Whole Duty of Man*, published about the middle of the 17th century ; the *New Whole Duty of Man*, published 50 or 60 years after ; and Venn's *Complete Duty of Man*, published on the revival of religion) which illustrate the character of the divinity of their respective æras. The *Whole Duty of Man*, was a practical book, to counteract the Antinomians, and contains an impressive introduction on the care of the soul, the devotional part is full and useful, and it has a good statement of relative duties, but it does not exhibit prominently the only principles and strength on which man can perform them. The *New Whole Duty*, attempting to remedy this, by bringing forward the faith as well as the duty of the Christian, has completely departed from the principles of the Reformation, and is a very dangerous

and unsound book. Let the following extract from the preface suffice. 'Our Saviour by His sufferings and death has purchased this grace for us, that real repentance and sincere obedience shall be accepted instead of innocence. Not that the condition of the gospel covenant is a perfect unsinning obedience, but a sincere endeavour to obey all the commands of God to the utmost of our power, which commands in their general and most proper sense, are so far from being impossible to be observed, that on the contrary, a man cannot easily transgress them without an hardened conscience, and deliberate choice. And whensoever God requires of us more than we are naturally able to perform, he never fails to afford us proportionably great assistance to enable us to perform what he so requires.' Nothing can be more unscriptural, and uncharacteristic of the gospel, or more contrary to our Articles, Homilies, and Liturgy. Compare this account with the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th Articles. In Venn's Complete Duty of Man, we return again to the principles of the Reformation. He exhibits clearly, justification by faith, and the vital doctrines of the gospel, but though doctrinally an improvement, yet it is defective as a complete substitute in the statement of practical duties.

The books and tracts of the Society for promoting Christian knowledge have, in some measure, as might have been expected, partaken of the character of the times in which they were written. The Author would here speak his sentiments freely, yet with the spirit of humility which the subject specially calls for. The cause of truth never, in the result, suffers from a candid declaration of opinion. Those who have had opportunity to know its operations will feel that the

Society has done, and is doing much to promote the purest divine truth. Bibles, Prayer books, and Homilies, and many excellent religious works have been circulated by it to a vast extent. There are also truly valuable works on its lists. But many of its warmest friends have deeply regretted, that some works that have been circulated by it, should have ever had this sanction given to them, and that there should still be found among its publications, any which contain sentiments in any degree similar to those which we have just adverted to in the *New Whole Duty of Man*.¹

The present members of the Society having inherited the Tracts of a century and a quarter, and with them the defects which would almost inevitably occur in so extended a period of years: measures have just been adopted, with the view, as it is stated, of preparing Tracts more plain, simple and interesting, and sound in doctrine.

The circumstance of any of the Tracts of the Society being dull and uninteresting, is but a small evil

¹ There are passages in its tracts which may indeed be justified by a favourable construction, but which are materially deficient in scriptural simplicity. Terms and expressions are used, which may easily mislead, and which give not the full light and glory of the scriptural doctrine. In so all-important a point as the way of salvation, where one constant tendency of the natural heart invariably is to seek salvation by our own good works, we want that bold, clear, decisive, evangelical statement which distinguishes our Articles, our Homilies, the writings of our Reformers in general, and above all, the word of God. (See Rom. iii. 19—31. Gal. ii. 16. Ephes. ii. 1—10.) Admitting that there is also a tendency in our corrupt heart to abuse the doctrines of our free salvation, a tendency described in the sacred record; yet that doctrine must not therefore be indistinctly stated, for it alone meets the necessities of an awakened mind, and a distressed conscience; and it alone is blessed by the Holy Spirit, as the mighty lever to move the world, the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

compared with a more serious defect; the withholding or scanty exhibition of the great doctrines of grace, free justification by Christ Jesus, the sweet spirit of adoption, the offices of the Saviour, and the work of his Spirit. His grace and glory are not at present the prominent and leading character of the Tracts, and while this continues to be the case, they cannot extensively promote his kingdom. It is most desirable that the chief attention should be directed to this point.

The true guard against Antinomianism is not the multiplication of legal requirements; nor the so cautiously stating the way of salvation, that a poor sinner can hardly find it for the peace and comfort of his afflicted conscience; but the full declaration of Christ Jesus in all his offices as a complete Saviour, delivering us both from the guilt and the power of sin, the setting forth the promises of the gospel as effectual motives to holiness, with the developement of all holy duties, as invariably flowing from the Saviour's grace, and the true evidence of that grace in our conformity to Him, who loved us, even to die for us, and who Himself makes us *meet for the inheritance of the saints in light*.

There is one work published by this Society, which, being of the same nature as works published by the Reformers, gives us an opportunity of comparing the sentiments of different æras with much facility. We allude to the Bibles with notes, published in King Edward's and Queen Elizabeth's reigns, and the Bible published by the Society.

Cranmer's Bible was published in 1539, and republished with notes in 1549, with a table of the principal matters. This table contains statements which would now be called Calvinistic.

The Geneva Bible was widely circulated at the Reformation. This Bible was translated and printed with notes by the English Refugees at Geneva. Lewis says, 'Of this translation, which was mostly had and used in private families; there were above thirty editions printed, mostly by the Queen's and King's printers from 1560 to 1616.' Though it is called the Geneva Bible, it is different from that published by the pastors and professors at Geneva. It had the sanction of Archbishops Parker and Grindal, the latter of whom was then Bishop of London. They said to secretary Cecil in 1565, 'they thought so well of the first impression, and the review of those who had since travelled therein, that they wished it would please him to be a means that twelve years longer term might be, by special privilege, granted,' for its publication, and assured him 'they would take much order with the party in writing, that no impression should pass but by their direction, consent, and advice.' This Bible is not uncommon, especially since it has been reprinted. Let any read the notes, and judge of the sentiments of those in authority by them. The character of these notes is sufficiently known.

The Bishop's Bible is more scarce, but being more expressly published by the Bishops, and sanctioned by the government, its authority is more decisive as to the sentiments of the Church of England at that time. It was first published in 1568.

The following notes are extracted from an edition printed in folio in 1585, in the Author's possession.

Gen. xii. 3. *In thee shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.*—Christ blessed all the cursed kindreds of the world.

Gen. xix. 17. *The angel said, Save thyself.*—God doth not only begin, but also finishes the salvation of his servants.

Gen. xxvi. 5. *Because that Abraham hearkened unto my voice.*—God commendeth Abraham's obedience, that Isaac should be more ready to do the like; for as God made his promise to Abraham of his free mercy, so the confirmation thereof to Isaac proceedeth of the same fountain.

Jacob's Ladder. Gen. xxviii. 12.—It may signify Christ, by whose mediation all graces come down to us, and all help, and by whom we ascend into heaven.

Gen. xxviii. 15. *I will not leave thee.*—God taketh all the charge of his elect, and never forsaketh them.

Deut. xxx. 19. *Choose life.*—That is to say, show thy love and obedience to God, which is not performed by our own strength, but by God's grace working in his elect.

2 Kings iii. 14. *Regard the presence of Josaphat.*—God suffereth his word to be declared to the wicked, because of the godly that are among them.

Psalms cx. 3. *Thy people be very willing.*—Christ and his holy word shall be received of his elect most willingly, and Christ's grace shall so wonderfully imbue men's hearts as the dew of the morning moisteneth the ground.

Canticles i. 4. *Black through the spots of persecution.*—Fair through faith in the blood of Christ.

Canticles iv. 14. *Up thou north wind.*—He prayeth for the grace of the Holy Ghost towards the Church, without which nothing can prosper in it.

Canticles viii. 6. *O set me as a seal.*—The Church desireth to be joined unto Christ by the seal of the Holy Ghost.

Isaiah iv. 4. *Washt away the filthiness.*—They are saved, whose sins are remitted and washed away with the blood of Christ.

Lamentations i. 14. *The yoke of my transgressions is bound fast to his hand.*—The bondage, through sin, is most grievous, which therefore is called the yoke of sins, fastened in or to God's hand, because by no means it can be shaken off or remitted, but only of God's special grace and mercy.

Ezek. xxxvi. 25. *Sprinkle clean water,* that is, his Spirit whereby he reformeth the heart, and regenerateth his. Isa. xlv.

Hab. iii. 13. *Salvation with thine anointed*—signifying that there is no salvation but by Christ.

Luke xix. 39. *Peace in heaven*—that is by Christ we are reconciled to God, and God's wrath is pacified towards us.

John iii. 13. *No man hath ascended.*—No man, by his own wit, can know the mysteries of Christ's kingdom, but by Christ himself.

John xv. 4. *Except ye abide in me.*—Those bring forth no fruit that are not graft in Christ.

Rom. iv. 20. *By the deeds of the law.*—He includeth here the whole law, both the ceremonial and moral, whose works cannot justify, because they be imperfect in all men.

Rom. v. 1. *At peace with God.*—By peace, which is the fruit of faith, is meant the incredible and most constant joy of mind; our conscience being quiet and established in God's grace.

Rom. x. 4. *Christ is the end of the law.*—That is, Christ hath fulfilled the whole law, and therefore whosoever believeth in Him is counted just before God, as well as if he had fulfilled the whole law himself.

Rom. xi. 35. *Who hath given unto him first.*—By this the Apostle declareth that God, by his free will and election, doth give salvation unto men without any deserts of their own.

1 Cor. i. 2. *Saints by calling.*—Made holy by the free mercy and calling of God.

1 Cor. ix. 27. *Lest, &c. I myself should be a castaway.*—Lest he should be reprov'd of men when they should see him do contrary or condemn that thing which he taught others to do.

1 Thea. i. 6. *With joy of the Holy Ghost.*—To believe and be fully persuaded to have the gifts of the Holy Ghost, and joyfully to suffer for Christ's sake, are most certain signs of our election.

1 Pet. i. 2. *Elect according, &c.*—The free election of God is the efficient cause of our salvation: the material cause is Christ's obedience: our effectual calling is the formal cause, and the final cause is our sanctification.

2 Pet. i. 3.—*All things that pertain, &c.*—The sum of our salvation and religion is to be led by Christ to the Father, who calleth us in the Son.

2 Pet. i. 10. *Give the more diligence for to make your calling and election.*—Albeit it be sure in itself, forasmuch as God cannot change, yet we must confirm it in ourselves by the fruit of the Spirit, knowing that the purpose of God electeth, calleth, sanctifieth and justifieth us.

1 John i. 3. *Fellowship with us.*—The effect of the gospel is that we all, being joined together in Christ by faith, should be the sons of God.

1 John iii. 12. *Translated from death unto life, because we love,* &c.—This love is the special fruit of our faith, and a certain sign of our regeneration. Lev. xix. 17.

Many similar quotations might have been made, but these will enable every reader to judge of the views of the leading bishops, in an early part of Queen Elizabeth's reign. The author does not mean to justify each annotation as the exact exposition of the passage, he only gives them as conveying the sentiments of the annotators.

He would leave it to the general reader, who has an opportunity to contrast the two works, to form his own judgment. The general strain of sentiment, in the more recent annotations, is obviously different. It may be, however, useful, though the Author feels the delicacy of the ground on which he treads, to enter into farther particulars.

The system of selection, from approved writers, was in itself valuable; but, without much care, it leads to a considerable difference in the tone of divinity, according to the different writers from whom the selections are taken. It was to be expected that the notes taken from Andrews, Beveridge, Caryl, Daneus, Hall, Hooker, Latimer, Mede, &c. should be superior in tone of doctrine to those from Bull, Clarke, Grabe, Hammond, Jortin, Locke, Macknight, Pyle, Tillotson, Tomline, Whitby, Womack, &c.¹

¹ The necessary doctrine, &c. should not have been quoted, and ought not to be designated as Cranmer's work. Bishop Lloyd remarks that it is probable that Gardiner (the great enemy of Cranmer) had more influence in the preparation of this work than

In a commentary designed for families and general use, in the middle and lower classes, practical reflections and personal application of the truth is especially valuable. If these had abounded, and if devotional

in either the Articles or Institution previously published. Cranmer's genuine sentiments upon the Eudition are still preserved in remarks which he made upon it, and which were published in the Fathers of the Church. There being a very defective view of justification in the Eudition, Cranmer closes his Annotations with a scriptural view of this all-important doctrine. He first shows that faith is an assured hope and confidence in Christ's mercy; and points out how sinful all men are, and God's mercifulness to penitent sinners for Christ's sake, and the importance of a personal reception of these truths. He then proceeds: 'The commandments of God lay our faults before our eyes, which puts us in fear and dread, and makes us see the wrath of God against our sins, as St. Paul says, *By the law is the knowledge of sin; and the law worketh wrath*, and makes us sorry and repentant that we should ever come into the displeasure of God and the captivity of the devil. The gracious and benign promises of God, by the mediation of Christ, show us, and that to our great relief and comfort, whensoever we be repentant and return fully to God in our hearts, that we have forgiveness of our sins, be reconciled to God, and be accepted and reputed just and righteous in his sight only by his grace and mercy, which he grants and gives unto us for his dearly beloved Son's sake, Jesus Christ, who paid a sufficient ransom for our sins; whose blood does wash away the same; whose bitter and grievous passion is the only satisfying oblation that puts away from us the wrath of God his Father: whose sanctified body, offered on the cross, is the only sacrifice of sweet and pleasant savour, as St. Paul says; that is to say, of such sweetness and pleasantness to the Father, that for the same he accepts and reputes of like sweetness all them that the same offering does serve for.

'These benefits of God, with innumerable others, whosoever expends and well ponders in his heart, and thereby conceives a firm trust and feeling of God's mercy, whereof springs in his heart a warm love and fervent heart of zeal towards God, it is not possible but that he shall fall to work, and be ready to the performance of all such works as he knows to be acceptable to God. And these works only which follow our justification do please God, for so much as they proceed from a heart endued with pure faith and love to God. But the works which we do before our justification, be not allowed and accepted before God, although they appear never so good and glorious in the sight of man. For after our justification only begin we to work as the law of God requires. Then we shall do all good works willingly, although not so exactly as the law

as well as evangelical statement had come in every chapter, they would have rendered it far more edifying and popular.

The work contains much useful information, gathered from quarters where readers in general would not look for it, and often throws considerable light on difficulties. As a work containing the result of extensive critical labours and learning, clearly expressed, and generally with much judgment, it is truly valuable.

But the Author cannot faithfully express his views without adding, that while there are some distinct

requires, by means of the infirmity of the flesh; nevertheless by the merit and benefit of Christ, we being sorry that we cannot do all things more exquisitely and duly, all our works shall be accepted and taken of God, as most exquisite, pure and perfect.

‘Now they that think they may come to justification by the performance of the law, by their own deeds and merits, or by any other mean than is above rehearsed; they go from Christ, they renounce his grace. *Christ is become of no effect to you, whosoever of you are justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace.* They be not partakers of the justice which he has procured, or the merciful benefits that be given by him. For St. Paul says, a general rule for all them that will seek such by-paths to justification; those, says he, which will not acknowledge the justice or righteousness which comes by God, but go about to advance their own righteousness, shall never come to that righteousness which we have by God; which is the righteousness of Christ, by whom only all the saints in heaven, and all others that have been saved, have been reputed righteous and justified. So that to Christ our only Saviour and Redeemer, of whose righteousness both their and our justification doth depend, is to be transcribed all the glory thereof.’¹

In those Annotations Archbishop Cranmer also most distinctly maintains final perseverance and election. Of perseverance he says: ‘The elect, of whom is here spoken, will follow Christ’s precepts, and repent, and rise again when they fall; and the right faith cannot be without following of Christ’s precepts, and repentance after falling. Therefore, in my sentence, it were better to say thus, The elect shall follow Christ’s precepts, or when they fall yet shall they repent, and rise again, and obtain remission.’ (P. 88.) Of election, he says: ‘Certain it is, that our election cometh only and wholly of the benefit and grace of God, for the merits of Christ’s passion, and for no part of our merits and good works.’

¹ Fathers, &c. Vol. III. 110—112.

statements of evangelical doctrine, there are others which he conceives to be seriously objectionable. He would refer to the extracts from Jortin, on Jer. xvii. 9. and from Dr. Hammond, Dean Tucker, and Bishop Tomline, on Eph. ii. 8. as specimens of this nature.

It is greatly to be desired that every part of a work so sanctioned, and so widely circulated, should contain, unobscured by doubtful quotations, an evangelical, sound, practical, and holy exposition of the full meaning of the sacred word, throughout furnishing clear exhibitions of salvation by Christ, and abundantly dispensing the streams of redeeming grace, and the operations of the Divine Spirit, with which the sacred fountain of holy writ abounds.

The Author has been more free in these remarks, as the tracts and books are under a course of revision; and he is convinced that nothing would be more likely to bring in a large accession of strength to the Society, and promote the usefulness of its labours, than a revision which would leave out questionable statements, and raise the general tone of the Society's publications to the divinity of the Reformation. At present many are kept from joining it, and others give it not a hearty and full support, from well-founded conscientious scruples, which such a revision would remove.

May the Great Head of the Church so pour out his Spirit upon us, as more and more to raise all our hearts to that rich and consoling view of His truth which made our Reformers willing to die in the flames for His name's sake; and may the successors of Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, and Bradford, ever hold the doctrine, for the maintenance of which they suffered, even the pure doctrine of Jesus Christ!

CHAPTER XII.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PRECEDING OUTLINES OF
THE HISTORY OF DIVINITY.

IN reviewing the last chapter, some reflections have arisen, which are added in the hope that they may tend to the student's edification.

The history of divinity is another commentary on the leading truths of scripture. The faithfulness and mercy of God, who never forsakes His church; the sinfulness of man, ever prone to corrupt His truth; and the reception which that truth has met with in the world, all confirm the doctrines of Christianity, and throw light upon them. As the events of history illustrate that prophetic word which foretels them, so the history and experience of the church develops and displays those doctrines which that church has received from the Divine record.

It is an immense mercy that all truth, in its purest state, is contained in one volume. We need not dive into a countless number of books, we need not spend our lives in vain searches after truth; here it is all in one book. Read the Bible with prayer, and we shall not miss the highest result of all study. Human lights are weak, feeble, and soon expire; the Divine light shines from age to age, and in every land.

It is too evident that the most eminent and the best human writers have many imperfections. Who is wholly free from error? Let us call no man master. Neither Luther, nor Calvin, nor Cranmer; neither Arminius nor Baxter; neither Taylor nor Waterland:

One is our Master, even Christ. He has appointed no infallible judge upon earth. Man has neither wisdom nor piety for such an office. Those who lay claim to it have erred most grievously. Look only at the iniquitous tyranny of the Roman Church, and at the evils of every church that sought to *lord it over God's heritage.*

In the midst of every outward advantage, how absolutely necessary is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, in order to the revival or progress of pure religion. The days of tranquillity which returned with the Revolution in 1688, did not bring with them the spirit of evangelical simplicity and piety which animated the Reformers. The increase of knowledge from the labours of Bacon, and Newton, and many a mighty mind, was not accompanied with a corresponding increase of faith, and hope, and love, in the church. Oh may we feel that all our literary advantages in the present day may be a snare and a hindrance to the vital prosperity of our souls, if they lead us from simply looking upward to the Divine Teacher of the church.

‘How is it,’ says Mr. Cecil, ‘that some men labour in divine things night and day, but labour in vain? How is it that men can turn over the Bible from end to end to support errors and heresies, absurdities and blasphemies? They take not the SPIRIT with the WORD. A spiritual understanding must be given, a gracious perception, a right taste.’

How wonderful has been the providence of God, in bringing clear exhibitions of His truth, from the very malice and subtilty of the great enemy who stirred up men to oppose that truth. Without alluding to our own times, *Celsus* writes against Christianity, and

human ingenuity in the defense of Christianity, in support
 that Trinity, and others were fully established in the 4th
 by Athanasius, and Pelagius opposed, and by Augustine, the important doctrine is established
 from many plausible objections, and that that
 always will be objections, will be met with a
 cavilling heart. Rom. ix. 19, 20. The papists
 establish human merit, and give occasion for the
 obtrusion of the fundamental article of justification
 by faith. God shows to his wisdom, and his
 grace, the talent, genius, and learning of men, in the
 great the power, life, and glory of His Son, who
 raised truth. The insufficiency of human wisdom
 and the excellence of the divine wisdom, the
 certain illustration, and fresh light, from the
 books from the Holy Scriptures, to enlighten and
 cheer a benighted world. We need not see the
 opposition of learned philosophers, or
 scholars, to the simple truth of the gospel. God
 will all how, how at last, before God's truth. I
 have raised up and He will continue to raise up
 minds and more learned than they to maintain His
 cause, even men divinely taught by his Spirit. But as
 these heresies were overruled, not only for the
 clearer exhibition of Christian truth, but also for the
 maintenance of Christian steadfastness, and the
 manifestation of Christian sincerity: there must be
 heresies among you, that they which are approved may
 be made manifest among you. 1 Cor. xi. 19. They
 have excited also a deeper and more diligent study into
 the word of God,

We must not condemn books altogether because in some, perhaps in points of more or less importance, they may oppose our own views. Orthodoxy and

ness in *many things* (such as the imperfection of human understanding) are consistent with *indifference*, or even positive error in other things not mental. Even from those who have fundamental error, some rays may be gathered not to be *sedes*. Truth (as Professor Franck used to say) is *one from whatever hand it comes*.¹ *And yet*

may, we think, be observed, that those have been successful in doing good, who have most *displayed* the blessings of religion. The gospel *brings* tidings of great joy. The Author fully goes with Mr. Cecil, when he says, 'Let there be no *more* yet I am arrived at this conviction.' Men lean toward the extremes of evangelical *religion* in their ministry, do much more to the *conversion* of their hearers than they do who lean toward the *me* of REQUIREMENT. And my own experience *was* my observation. I feel myself repelled if any *chills*, loads, or urges me. This is my nature, like it very much the nature of other men. But I hear, *Son of man, thou hast played the harlot with* *pleasures; yet return again to me saith the Lord and I* *reluctant and subdued.*'

Indeed in point of fact, the best writers on privilege minutely display the Christian's practical *conduct*, and holy tempers and dispositions *and* their *spring* in the rich privileges of the church: *But therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bow in* *mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness,* *suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving* *another, if any man have a quarrel against any, even* *Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

see his *Apology for himself in his Life by Jacques*, prefixed
 2^d Edition of his Guide.

But books may be useful that rise not to the scriptural standard. In proving all things and holding fast that which is good, we must needs form our own judgment; but it may please God extensively to use a book for the good of others in which we may perhaps personally, either from more extended knowledge and a deeper insight into divine truth, find much that is defective, and but little spiritual profit. A book may be very useful as a first step into religious knowledge, and yet be inadequate to carry us forward, through its length and breadth. Excessive statements of doctrine are also carefully to be avoided; by pushing a point too far, they destroy the scriptural proportion, and lead to counter-statements, by which divine truth has been so guarded, attenuated, and lowered, as to lose much of its native power and energy.

We must not expect too much uniformity of mind in sound divines. The Holy Spirit gives very different degrees of light and knowledge, *dividing to every man severally as he will.* No two writers who think for themselves will exactly agree in all points. Divinity in all its bearings and ramifications is the most extended subject of human knowledge. Diversity of minds and gifts cause different modes of stating truth, and the viewing it in different aspects, even where there is a full agreement in the main. Thus Ridley, Bradford, and Crammer, all dying for the same truth, yet in some respects differ. Thus Baxter differs from Manton, though in the same school. Thus Hall and Hopkins, Owen and Goodwin, Fuller and Scott, Edwards and Bellamy, differ from each other in minor points, though in the same schools of divinity. But let us guard against

using disparaging expressions or exaggerating the differences, and rather learn from each what is excellent in each, not leaning on man, but trying all by the Divine Records, where alone is truth in all its full and beautiful proportion. It is important not to read the labours of learned men with a caviling and sceptical spirit, or to call into question sentiments of approved authors *hastily*, on account of their disagreement with our own sentiments, or those of some of our favourite authors.

The vain attempt of Charles V. to make two watches go exactly alike, made him reflect 'with a mixture of surprise as well as regret on his own folly, in having bestowed so much time and labour on the more vain attempt of bringing mankind to a precise uniformity of sentiment concerning the profound and mysterious doctrines of religion.'

At the same time however, while we would view this diversity of sentiment in the spirit of Christian love, we must not forget in reference to our own opinions, and those who conflict with them the *culpability* of wilful error in religion. And when we limit this charge to wilful error, this will include unintentional error, where all cautionary means have not been diligently, honestly, and prayerfully improved. Nothing indeed but the uninterrupted interference of miraculous influence could so direct the weakness of the understanding, and control the imperfections of language, as to produce an entire uniformity of sentiment. The undue influence of the imagination, and the passions, and the opposition of scriptural truth to the natural habits and inclinations of the mind and principles of conduct, must be expected to disorder the singleness of the eye in the

perception of truth. By this means errors in themselves more or less venial, become culpable by wilful negligence. Means are appointed by which a competent though not indeed infallible discrimination of truth may be attained. Caution, patience, and diligence of research under the direction of an ingenuous, humble, serious, and devotional spirit, will not fail of the blessing of the promise. John vii. 17. If this process does not absolutely free from error (which is not wholly to be expected in this life) it will at least free us as much from blame as the man, who, in those immaterial points in which we may have been mistaken, has arrived at a more just perception.

Of how little moment are many things about which divines have most eagerly contended; and where the contention was needful, how often has it been aggravated by an unkind and unchristian spirit. ‘To what purpose,’ says Thomas a Kempis ‘are our keenest disputations on hidden and obscure subjects for our ignorance of which we shall not be brought into judgment at the great day of universal retribution.’ This caution justly applies to many topics on which men have disputed, but let us not call those subjects hidden and obscure, which being the things of the Spirit, are only received through His teaching, and thus may be unknown to the world; since they are in truth the main-spring of Christian devotion and holy practice. The doctrines of the Reformation were of this kind, and as they were vital and all essential to the Christian life, so God blessed a firm and eager contention for them. Without those doctrines of our free salvation in Christ delivering us by His righteousness from the guilt, and by His Spirit, from the

ower of sin, we can have neither peace nor joy in believing.

It is an affecting consideration that many of the most prejudicial errors have been introduced by men of real piety. Here is the great artifice of Satan. He would not succeed by using bad instruments; thus is he most mischievous when he *is transformed into an angel of light*. May we hope that this very circumstance will at length lead the church from reposing in man's word to the simple affiance of the soul on the divine record?

How impossible is it on a just review of all human writers, to glory in men! Where is the human being we dare set up as the idol of our hearts? Who is free from mistakes and prejudices, from expressions which ought to have been guarded or qualified? True, the righteous is more excellent than his neighbour; true, our delight will be with the excellent of the earth, but where can we safely and entirely lean upon a human arm? No where. Let us then see in all its strength and force, that weighty truth (Isa. ii. 11, 22.) *The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down; and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.... Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of?* and receive with all humility the solemn caution, *Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom*. God will stain the pride of man even in all His own gifts to man. If one is profound, he is obscure; if another is brilliant, he is unsound; if another is exact, accurate, and refined, he is perhaps deficient in bold action and energy; if another is rich in experience, he yet perhaps loses advantages by excess of caution; if one has a fine genius and

imagination, he is carried away by it from the simplicity of scriptural statement, and sometimes perhaps becomes the parent of error which misleads many. Thus all human agents are proved to be defective, that we may rest—Where? in Thee only, Thou Father of Lights, and Source of all wisdom; and may, as Thy family, see our need of one another, and love one another with a pure heart fervently.

It is very dangerous to depart from the proportion of faith, and to pass beyond the wise and holy limits with which the sacred scriptures encompass every doctrine; when we get out of the bounds of scripture, we wander in thick darkness, and through endless mazes of error. Thus on the doctrine of Trinity we may easily pass into Tritheism, or sink into Arianism. On the doctrine of predestination, we may easily press our views so far as to hold Fatalism on the one hand, or deny the foreknowledge of God on the other. On the doctrine of imputed righteousness, we may in our mode of putting it, make even the atonement of Christ unnecessary on the one hand, and repentance, contrition, and humiliation on the other. As every virtue is surrounded with opposite vices, so every doctrine is surrounded with opposite errors. *If any man prophesy; let him prophesy according to the proportion of faith; if any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.*

These differences of sentiment which we have been constrained to notice in the different schools, and even in the same school of divinity, were doubtless intended; or at least overruled for the exercise of Christian forbearance and brotherly love. Without some trying dispensations of this kind, we should miss the evidence

of one proof of our interest in the gospel (1 John, iii. 14.); and that proof which has often upheld the exercised soul, whose distressing experience has cast a cloud over his other evidences. It is easy to preserve our meekness when there is no trial of contradiction, and as easy to love those whose taste and sentiments identify themselves with our own. But it is the diversity, and in some points the opposition of sentiment to our own standard that exercises the graces of love, and shows the continual need of watchfulness and prayer to maintain their influence, Rom. xiv. xv. 1—7. If Toplady had exhibited more of this spirit towards Wesley and Fletcher, it would have been a far clearer exhibition of high attainments in grace, than his full and unctious views of Christian doctrine and experience.

How important then is Christian love! 'The time will come,' says Hooker, 'when a few words spoken with meekness, humility, and love, shall be more acceptable than volumes of controversy, which commonly destroys charity, the very best part of true religion.' *Hatred stirreth up strife.* The greatest number of the divisions that have agitated the church, and turned men's minds from the one thing, of all others, the most momentous, *working out their own salvation*, and that now separate Christians from one another, have arisen from the defect of love on one side or the other, and generally on both sides. Sometimes those in authority have expected to produce union of sentiment, and conviction of mind by power and severity; and sometimes those not having power, have expected to gain their ends by resistance and opposition; and the sin of schism has too often been chargeable, not merely on one party, but on

both. One by unscriptural requirements, or by a harsh enforcement of those that are scriptural; by arrogance, by love of power and of wealth, has given occasion for the obstinacy, and hatred, and self-wisdom of the other. It is a sad state which Gregory Nazianzen notices. ‘The only godliness we glory in, is to find out somewhat whereby we may judge others to be ungodly. Each others’ faults we observe as matters of reproachful accusation, and not of grief.’ The sweet spirit of the gospel doctrine wins its way to the heart in the full exhibition of love to God and love to man: from love flows unanimity, and with that, harmony, brotherly-kindness, and all that adorns the church and refreshes the world.

How little good has a severe treatment of those who differ from us, or a severe requisition of our own views accomplished! We see this among both Romanists and Protestants. We see this in the gradual progress of what all will admit to be in itself an evil, the divisions among Christians in our own country. Probably one third of our countrymen are dissenters from the established church. Let us look back, and though the human mind is ever prone to division, yet has not an unchristian spirit on each side augmented an evil to which our corrupt nature is so liable. The days of Elizabeth, the proceedings of Archbishop Laud, the conduct of his opponents, the ejections on Bartholomew day, in 1662; and the rejection of the comprehension projected by some of those then in authority at the Revolution; were all marked rather by the law of severity than by the spirit of love; and may we not observe the same thing in still later periods. And what has been the result? We have in our country several millions of dissenters. The Church

of Rome, with a policy characteristic of the whole of that subtle system of iniquity, would not lose its strength by separating from itself its different orders and divisions. Has not the Protestant church in England greatly weakened itself by an opposite line of conduct? It is true that God has overruled it for good, and we are quickened by the zeal and efforts of those who dissent from us. But does this compensate for our divisions? Fellow-subjects, fellow-citizens, and fellow-Christians are separated from each others' worship; and from full communion of saints, while they equally hold the Head, and hope for ever to dwell together. This ought not to be. In a more perfect state of the church this will not be demanded. Those are unjust as well as impolitic who on account of one supposed error bring a charge of other errors which they suspect to be connected with it. Thus there are those who charge persons that hold Calvinistic views and tenets with being hostile to the establishment. Some of its firmest supporters would be liable to such a charge, if such a consequence be maintained. This injustice is not confined to our own day. Bishop Sanderson, when some in his days were wanting to throw the charge of disaffection to the establishment, on those who held the sentiments of Calvin, replies in language exactly suited to the present times. "So far as has occurred to my observation, I dare say it is read more written against the puritans (i. e. non-conformists) and their opinions, and with more real satisfaction, and upon no less solid grounds, by those that have and do dissent from the Arminian tenets, than by those that have and do maintain them. Could that blessed Archbishop Whitgift, or the modest and learned Hooker have ever thought, so much as by

dream, that men concurring with them in opinion should for those very opinions be called puritans.¹

The mode of conveying truth is of considerable moment. Mr. Cecil observes, speaking of this—‘The papists and puritans erred in opposite extremes in their treatment of mankind. The PAPISTS almost to a man considered the mass of men as mere animals, and to be led by the senses : even Fenelon fell into this way of thinking. Some few fine spirits were to be found which were capable of other treatment ; but the herd they thought capable of nothing but seeing and hearing. The PURITANS on the contrary treated man as though he had nothing of the animal about him. There was among them a total excision of all amusement and recreation. Every thing was effort ; every thing was severe. I have heard a man of this school preach on the distinction between justifying and saving faith. He tried to make his hearers enter into these niceties : whereas faith in its bold and leading features should have been presented to them, if any effect was expected. The bulk of mankind are capable of much more than the papist allows, but are incapable of that which the puritan supposes. They should be treated, in opposition to both, as rational and feeling creatures, but upon a bold and palpable ground.’²

How rare is pure and genuine Christianity ! It is well remarked—‘ Interesting theological theories are easy. Clear theological knowledge ; lively, animated, and clever discussions of religious men and books ; zeal against Popery, as if Protestantism and Chris-

¹ See his Treatise. *Pax Ecclesiæ*, p. 64.

² See Cecil's Remains.—Works, Vol. ii. p. 619.

anity were synonymous terms ; high and hot churchmanship, as if the Liturgy and Articles had been given by the inspiration of God, and were necessary to salvation ; as high and hot dissent, as if written sayers, creeds, and surplices were sure badges of the probate :—All these are easy and fashionable in their respective quarters ; but after all, genuine Christianity is not easy ; the offence of the cross has not ceased, and if any man will be spiritually minded, living godly in Christ Jesus, and mildly yet steadily resisting the solicitation of the world, avowing at the same time the principle on which he acts, it is true now as it was when the Apostle wrote it, that such a man shall suffer persecution.' ¹

Let us learn the danger of resisting the powers that be. Rom. xiii. 1, 2. An impressive lesson taught by this view is, that very important truth, *My kingdom is not of this world ; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews ; but now is my kingdom not from hence*, John xviii. 36. The attempting to unite these two different kingdoms, and to establish the spiritual by the sword of the temporal kingdom, led the way in the rebellion to all those serious crimes that have been the opprobrium of Christianity ever since. It is one thing for Christians in power and authority, to support, patronize, and establish their religion ; we believe it to be their duty : It is quite another thing to usurp power and authority even for the purpose of extending religion ; we believe this to be a serious crime. It is one thing to give all our

¹ Easter Offering, p. 182.

influence and property for the advancement of Christ's kingdom by spiritual means, we believe this to be the highest charity : It is another thing to use temporal weapons, to do what ? why all that it can possibly do, compel an outward conformity to an external service: this is oppression and tyranny. The temporal kingdom can do much by protection and provision, and by restraining public offences against the peace of society, it only does harm by persecution even of those in error. How mercifully here has God dealt with us as a nation, and how distinctly on the whole has our present constitution attained that happy medium which we now enjoy !

To fight for Christ's kingdom with the temporal sword is to mistake its character. To confess and suffer, and not to fight, is the Christian's part. To what an inroad of hypocrisy, false experience, ambition, worldliness, and delusion did some men expose the church of Christ in the days of the rebellion, by a total mistake on this vital point. Far better had it been for them to have patiently suffered all the severities of the star chamber, and committed their cause to God in fervent prayer. He in His own time would have appeared in their behalf, and we should have been spared some of the worst scenes of our national history, and some of the greatest stumbling blocks in the church of Christ. See in the Reformation, and the martyrdoms of Mary's reign, how triumphant the Christian's sufferings and death were over all the power of the enemy. The Society of Friends, the Quakers, have lost nothing by their non-resistance: they have succeeded in part at least by suffering patiently.

Milner well observes in his Tract on the use of History—'You find no instance of any man ever

having occasion to repent of the exercise of modesty, candour, integrity, moderation. But every page of human annals lays open the mischiefs of presumption, deceit, pride, and furious passions. Cromwell, though exalted to the summit of earthly grandeur, is seen to be miserable amid the conflicts of disquieting passions. And Charles I. though stripped of regal dignity, and low enough to excite the pity of his enemies, is yet through the native energy of a well ordered and serene temper, calm and tranquil, and enjoys that peace to which the other is a stranger.' ¹

With what extreme difficulty has that blessed doctrine, justification by faith only, been preserved from age to age unimpaired, and in its purity ! One would have thought, that after the Reformation, the Protestant Churches could hardly again have almost lost a doctrine which was then so fully established, and so distinctly and clearly embodied in their confessions. But it is one very opposed to our darkened understanding, and it can only be adequately understood and valued in the humbling school of Christian experience. Many too doubtless hold it substantially, who do not hold it in theory, or expression. ² May

¹ See Works, Vol. viii. p. 446.

² President Edwards's remarks, at the close of his able Sermon on Justification, are candid and weighty—'How far a wonderful and mysterious agency of God's Spirit may so influence men's hearts, that their practice in this regard may be contrary to their own principles, so that they shall not trust in their own righteousness, though they profess that men are justified by their own righteousness ; or how far they may believe the doctrine of justification by men's own righteousness in general, and yet not believe it in a particular application of it to themselves :—Or how far that error which they may have been led into by education or cunning sophistry of others, may yet be indeed contrary to the prevailing disposition of their hearts, and contrary to their practice:—Or,

Christians ever have a jealous care over this jewel of the gospel of Christ. Experience has shown that this is 'a most wholesome doctrine,' as well as 'very full of comfort.' The suspicions of the natural understanding are proved to be groundless by the history of the Church. Bishop Horsley, in his first Charge, observes, 'That man is justified by faith without the works of the law was the uniform doctrine of our first Reformers. It is a far more ancient doctrine—it was the doctrine of the whole college of Apostles : it is more ancient still, it was the doctrine of the prophets : it is older than the prophets—it was the religion of the patriarchs, and no one who has the least acquaintance with the writings of the first Reformers will impute to them more than to the patriarchs, the prophets, or apostles, the absurd opinion, that any man leading an impenitent wicked life will finally, upon the mere pretence of faith, (and faith connected with an impenitent life must always be a mere pretence) obtain admission into heaven.'

Many are the lessons which we are taught, as to the

how far some may seem to maintain a doctrine contrary to this gospel-doctrine of justification, that really do not, but only express themselves differently from others, or seem to oppose it through their misunderstanding of our expressions, or we of theirs, when indeed our real sentiments are the same in the main ; or may seem to differ more than they do, by using terms that are without a precisely fixed and determined meaning ;—or to be wide in their sentiments from this doctrine, for want of a distinct understanding of it ; whose hearts at the same time entirely agree with it, and if once it was clearly explained to their understandings, would immediately close with it, and embrace it. How far these things may be, I will not determine ; but am fully persuaded that great allowances are to be made on these and such like accounts in innumerable instances ; though it is manifest from what has been said, that the teaching and propagating contrary doctrines and schemes, is of a pernicious and fatal tendency.'—Works, Vol. vi. p. 315.

causes and symptoms of a decline of religion, and it is all-important to retard its fall, and forward its revival by every means in our power. It will have been observed, that all bodies of Christians have ultimately fallen from their primitive purity. What have been the causes? One grand cause manifestly is the corruption of the human heart. Another has been the taking religious opinions rather on the authority of great and good names, than on that which is divine—God's holy word. (1 Cor. ii. 5.) Thus human faith is gendered, and not that divine faith which gains the victory over all our spiritual enemies.

This important subject calls for farther illustration. We see something of it in the decay of religion in the successive generations of a pious family. The effects which have arisen from pious parents thrusting their children into the ministry, show the same thing. It was said in the preceding century, 'Some of the greatest perverters of the gospel during the last century have descended from pious parents, who, fond of the idea of bringing up their children to the public service of God, overlooked the necessity of personal religion, presuming, as it would seem, that God would in due time supply that.'

But we see it on a large scale in the history of the Church of Christ generally. The concurring in human confessions and forms, which, where sincere, expresses the unity of the Church, may soon degenerate into a scrupulous, self-righteous, and superstitious veneration for an external truth, without any experience of its power. There is a great danger that the successors to those who have established a form of sound words, should hold the same words as a correct theory, with an excessive zeal, and just in inverse ratio to that

zeal, slight their saving influence and power on the heart. The effect of this is, that however the doctrine be held in theory, there is a gradual loss of the real truth, which more and more fails, till those who retain the sound words explain away their real meaning, and with all their strength oppose every just statement of the truth contained in those words. It is seldom that vital religion flourishes long in the same place. Religion passes from the affections into the intellect, and becomes a dry and barren speculation—the religion of sentiment, instead of the religion of the heart.

Similar is the tendency of an attachment to any human authorities, as the ground of our confidence. The first teachers may be entirely sound and scriptural, and be extensively blessed; but their successors adopting their views not wholly from experience, and from the word of God, but mainly from man, begin to believe very much on human teaching; and thus not having the simple faith in the divine record, which is alone the effective stay of the soul, giving us the victory over the world, they gradually bend and verge to worldly systems, while at first they retain all the outward theory of orthodox, or evangelical principles. But by degrees, with the substance, the form is either on the one hand slighted and lost, or on the other hand magnified as the one thing necessary and important.

Has not the Church of God seen these things painfully exemplified on a large scale among almost every class of Christians in every age of the church. Have not the Protestant churches on the continent and in the British islands witnessed the same distressing facts in their own history.

This state of things arises from, and is an indication of the tremendous power of that inward corruption which breaks through all barriers, and rises over all bounds. It is at the same time another evidence of the freedom, and riches, and fulness of that grace which is in Christ Jesus. He, against all this powerful tendency, still raises up afresh, by fresh effusions of the Holy Ghost, faithful witnesses from time to time, with a new experience of the truth in their own conversion to God, boldly to testify the gospel of his grace. The faithful witness too is then enabled, by those abused and neglected confessions, to take a firmer stand and be strengthened and bulwarked against all attacks, and thus a new life and power is given to the form, and the whole church is revived.

We have had painful occasion to see that many have admitted right sentiments, who do not, as far as man can judge, live under the personal experience and enjoyment of those sentiments. Without noticing unworthy motives, we may in many cases believe that their real learning, their candour of mind, and their sincerity of character, have led them to avow doctrines which they perceived to be scriptural ; but it is greatly to be feared that their religion is the religion of intellect without corresponding feelings ; the religion of an outward orthodoxy without the living principles having their due influence over the affections. The deity and the atonement of Christ, for instance, are admitted and are strenuously maintained against Socinians ; but the glory of those doctrines, as discovering to us one able to save to the uttermost, and procuring for us a complete salvation, are not traced out in their practical application, as unspeakably

important in the temptations, the distresses, the burdens, and the conflicts of the Christian life. Real Christianity is the religion of the heart, as well as of the intellect; *God hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* The outward defence of the truth is not to be undervalued. Christians have been shielded from many reproaches and much contempt by the learned works of men, whose general spirit and conduct has, alas! been such as to free them from the reproach of the cross, and all suspicion of enthusiasm, and who have too manifestly been of the world, to be hated by the world. They have had, we will say, the ingenuousness of mind to admit the great essential doctrines of the gospel: nay, we may go farther and say, they have assisted the real Christian by the powerful intellectual defence of doctrines, of which it is to be feared they themselves had not that full experimental enjoyment which to the Christian was another most satisfactory evidence of their truth. Let us never rest in a bare orthodoxy of sentiment. Our creed may be perfectly right in the intellect, and our heart perfectly wrong, because it never truly received it. *With the heart man believeth unto righteousness.* It is real Antinomianism to rest satisfied with an orthodox creed, whether that creed comprehend many or few articles of faith, if those articles are destitute of holy influence on the heart and in the life.

We may observe that religion does not ordinarily flourish most when its professors have most worldly honour and outward advantage. It is true that in the primitive time, when the churches *had rest, they were edified, and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost were multiplied*: but this

was in a peculiar day, and under a peculiar effusion of the Holy Ghost. The general history of the church shows how little even the best of men can bear power, dominion, and prosperity. God has wisely chosen in general a humble lot for his people, and leaves mostly to the world that which the world so eagerly pursues, the kingdoms and glory of this world. Seldom do Christians gain a large measure of riches or dominion, of science or learning, without seriously suffering in their best interests. Those who are thus raised in the world, and at this cost, have rather need of our prayers than our congratulations.

The uncertainty of human judgment, and the differences of important sentiment among learned and pious men, and the impossibility of man's being always infallibly right, may tend to raise our thoughts to that great day when the fullest and the most decisive light will shine upon us.

How clear is it that there must be a judgment day to make all truths and all characters manifest and apparent, when with every help of history, and accounts of opposite sides laid open to us, we find it often impossible to discern where the exact truth really lies, and may perchance ourselves, after exercising our best powers, condemn that which God approves.

May we not also hope for days of greater knowledge on earth? Allowing that there may be great intervening trials, yet the scriptures lead us to hope that happier days are now before the church, days when *Ephraim shall not envy Judah, nor Judah vex Ephraim*, when there shall be a vast increase of pure scriptural knowledge in its richest experience and its highest attainment, communion with God our Heavenly Father.

the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters do the sea : They shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion.

And happier days still are before the Christian, days when he shall have a freer and closer intercourse with all the saints and servants of God our Saviour. All their darkness will then be dispelled, and all their errors for ever removed, all their coldness and separation for ever gone ; and, nothing but light, and joy, and love filling every glorified spirit above, who can duly estimate the full bliss and glory of this *general assembly of the first-born !* When we look around our studies, we see quietly ranged together in the same shelves Origen and Cyprian, Augustine and Jerome, Bradwardine and Aquinas, Calvin and Arminius, Hooker and Owen, Baxter and Stillingfleet, Toplady and Wesley, Whitfield and Fletcher, Watts and Doddridge, with modern Episcopalians, in perfect peace ; and it is cheering to have them each in his turn ready at our elbow to minister instruction and edification. But O, how much more cheering is that peace, how perfect that love in which they now dwell together. How full of joy the hope that we shall soon be with them, and know as we are known. If sorrow could enter there it would be that we were ever divided on earth ; but even that sinful division will serve to amplify and illustrate the riches of that grace which pardoned all, and in which we shall triumph through eternity.

Their love so cold, so mixed before,
In heaven is cold and mixed no more ;
They see the Saviour as he is,
And dwell in heaven with Him and His.

KELLY.

And we shall rejoice in a yet higher joy, even in seeing God as he is ; without a veil, or emblem, or shadow, or letter ; and to our unutterable bliss, join David in saying, *With thee is the fountain of life, and in thy light shall we see light.* The imperfection of the light of grace was doubtless intended to quicken our desires after, and our anticipations of the unclouded light of glory.

In the mean time much is to be learnt, and much to be done for the glory of God and the good of man.

There are at present, living authors and divines of almost all the classes which have been noticed, and it is immensely important for every Christian and every minister to consider what class comes nearest to the Holy Scriptures, and what doctrines God most blesses to the conversion and salvation of immortal souls. The author has no hesitation in saying that he firmly believes that the sentiments of the Reformers are eminently conformed to the word of God, and influential to practical good. Let all who love the Saviour be warned by the history of past ages to take heed of losing the simplicity of faith, and falling back again to that state from which we have been rescued. Let us never sink to the worldly, and latitudinarian, and self-righteous spirit of past days, but hold fast the profession of faith. *Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

These reflections cannot be concluded better than in the striking words of Bishop Stillingfleet—'Christ crucified is the library which triumphant souls will be studying to all eternity. This is the only library which is the true *ταρπειον ψυχης* that which cures the soul of all its maladies and distempers : other knowledge makes men's minds giddy and flatulent ;

this settles and composes them: other knowledge is apt to swell men into high conceits and opinions of themselves, this brings them to the truest view of themselves, and thereby to humility and sobriety: other knowledge leaves men's minds as it found them; this alters them and makes them better. So transcendent an excellency is there in the knowledge of Christ crucified, above the sublimest speculations in the world.' ¹

CHAPTER XIII.

BRIEF COURSES OF STUDY OF DIVINITY.

THE object in view in our studies must regulate the nature and course of them. The Christian student who merely aims at his own satisfaction and edification, need not pursue his studies to the same extent as another who is designed for the ministry. To a certain extent indeed they may both pursue the same plan. But the student for the ministry will find many things requisite in addition to those studies which are important to Christians in general.

The plans of study sometimes given are so long as to be impracticable. It is not a bad Hindoo proverb, 'There is more to be learned than you have years to apply to learning, therefore acquire that for which you have got immediate use.' But amid the multitude

¹ See his *Origines Sacrae*, p. 378, folio.

of books it is extremely difficult so to point out the best on each subject, as to direct to a course which is free from just exception.

In the present state of Christianity among us, Christian education, and especially catechetical instruction, have been so neglected, that many adults have still to learn the elementary principles of their religion. The Apostle's address is still applicable to such—*When for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God.* The connexion in which this reproof is introduced makes it evident that it applied not so much to a want of practical and experimental knowledge, as to a deficiency in an intelligent perception of their religion; ver. 10, 11. knowledge conveyed by human rather than divine teaching, ver. 12. Even those designed for the ministry, unless they are personally religious, and have themselves diligently and with prayer read the scriptures, are often wholly, and frequently miserably unqualified, in mere theological knowledge, for the most important and arduous of all offices. So far from being able to answer the subtle objections of infidels, or to solve spiritual doubts of perplexed Christians, they can perhaps hardly answer scriptural questions, to which any well taught scholar can give a ready reply. There are also pious young persons who would do well thoroughly to study Watts's first Catechisms, before they enter on any course of reading, and would find there much of which they are ignorant.

Such things ought not to be. May the following course assist in guiding readers in general to those studies which may lead them to a state of knowledge more satisfactory to themselves, and profitable to others.

Great loss of time may be saved by a steady course of study, and due application to a particular object. The advice of Anulus, the President of the College at Lyons, to Junius was very good. Junius had leisure and plenty of books, and read various authors indiscriminately, eagerly endeavouring to fill his mind with the multiplied knowledge of all sorts of things. Anulus warned him against this, saying, that he would rather trouble and injure, than assist his mind by such a desultory method of reading: that he should have some proposed end placed before him, at which he should aim, since neither life nor the human mind were equal to all kinds of studies together. Junius found this advice useful all through life.

But it must be freely allowed, that all human plans are imperfect, and God accomplishes his purposes in very different modes to what we should have pointed out. He will lead his own instruments for benefiting his church in that course which will most tend to fit them for his service. The eminent Baxter, in reply to a letter from Anthony Wood desiring to know where he was educated, thus describes the way in which he was led. ‘As to myself, my faults are no disgrace to any University, for I was of none, and have little but what I had out of books, and very inconsiderable helps of country tutors. Weakness and pain helped me to study how to die; that set me on studying how to live; and that set me on studying the doctrines from which I must fetch my comforts; and beginning with necessities, I proceeded to the lesser integrals by degrees, and now am going to see that which I have lived and studied for.’¹

¹ See Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses*.

We suppose the student to have had a general education, to have been in the inferior school, of nature, and to have had his mind enlarged, his powers of reasoning strengthened, and his style improved by studies not directly theological.¹

We will first give a **PLAN OF STUDY FOR THE PRIVATE CHRISTIAN**. How should the student commence his studies? Bearing in mind the important fact, asserted by Solomon, *the Lord giveth wisdom, out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding*, and the gracious promise recorded by James, *if any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him*; we would earnestly recommend, that before all his studies he should offer up fervent prayer to the Father of lights, and the Giver of every good gift, and every perfect gift: so alone can he be guarded against the dangers of study, and attain its real advantages. Prayer obtains light and knowledge as well as holy feelings.

We have already seen that the word of God claims our first and constant study. As to the order in which

¹ These are the great advantages of Classical, Mathematical, Logical, Historical, and Philosophical studies. History is especially important. Dr. Buchanan observes, 'The History of the World illustrates the word of God, and the Book of Providence, when piously studied, becomes a Commentary on the Book of Revelation. But if the preacher be ignorant of the great events of the world, the word of Prophecy is in a manner lost in his ministry.' Leighton's Exhortations to Students strongly express, however, the vanity of resting in mere philosophy.

The Latin language is valuable, as the general medium of intercourse with all Foreign Divines; it is like a common bond which unites the whole of Christendom in one body. The most valuable writings of foreigners, therefore, have been either written in this language, or translated into it, and the knowledge of it gives us access to the treasures of all countries and ages.

the books of Scripture should be read; Melancthon directs the student to begin with the Romans, since it contains almost a plan of the whole scriptures, and after that epistle to read in regular order the Galatians, Colossians, and other epistles, the gospels, Genesis, Deuteronomy, the Psalms, the prophets, and then the historical books. It was Luther's advice to Spalatinus to read the Bible in order from the beginning to the end. Probably a study of both Testaments, one in the morning and the other in the evening, in the order in which they are placed, or in that in which they were written, will, in the result, be found more advantageous.

Franck's Guide throughout may be consulted for valuable rules for the study of the scriptures. One great consideration with the student of the scripture is as accurately as may be to mark the proportion or analogy of faith.¹ There is a lovely harmony and answerableness of one part to another, which will be evident to a discerning reader with a simple heart and spiritual perception. To mark this, is of the first importance in the inquiry into the mind of God in his word. The consistency of each part with the rest, the prominence and relative importance of certain truths in the scriptural system, so that we not only receive scriptural truth, but receive it in the scriptural mould. Great care too is necessary to have a correct view of the character, solidity, and depth of scriptural truth; not to conceive of its fulness, as necessarily embracing three or four meanings. This is really to empty it of its fulness, divesting

¹ See Franck's Guide, pp. 75—78.

it of all meaning, by depriving it of a determinate sense. The word of God is like its Author, we cannot search it to perfection. But if we cannot take the whole sense of God, let us not forget that there is one proper sense affixed to every part, and that instead of looking out for more, we had better receive and enjoy the portion which in the plain surface lies before us, abundantly sufficient for every emergency. Melancthon advises, that the principal sentences should be taken out and arranged under heads, as he had given a specimen in his *Common Places*. Luther highly commends the *Common-Places* of Melancthon, as a book by which the divine and pastor of the church may be thoroughly furnished.

On the interpretation of Scripture, Horne's *Introduction* is full of useful information, compiled from every quarter. If this be too voluminous to undertake, its *Abridgement*, or Jones's *Scripture Directory* will assist those who cannot give much time; with this join the short *Notes of the Reformers' Bible*, Scott's *Exposition on Matthew, John, and on the Romans*, Luther on the *Galatians*, and Leighton on *Peter*.

Though the Reader, at the beginning of his course may not be prepared to go all lengths with those who have attained much Christian knowledge and experience; yet many have found it materially to facilitate their progress to read such books as Halyburton's *Life*, and Scott's *Force of Truth*.

The *Evidences of Christianity* are clearly displayed in Gregory's *Letters*, Chalmers's *Evidence*, or in Paley's *Evidences* and *Horæ Paulinæ*; and difficulties are met and obviated in Butler's *Analogy* (the edition with Mr. Wilson's introduction). Bishops Newton and Hurd, Mr. Keith on the *Prophecies*, and

Campbell on the Miracles, with Sumner's Evidences may also be added.

Catechetical Divinity, including Creeds, Catechisms, and Confessions of Faith, will be learnt in Vivian's Explanation of the Catechism, Pearson on the Creed, the 39 Articles with Scripture Proofs, and the Harmony of the Confessions. ¹

A correct and brief system of doctrinal and practical Divinity may be found in the **Homilies, and in Robinson's System, and Scott's Essays**; and of experimental religion in **Newton's Cardiphonia and other Letters, and in Augustine's Confessions.**

The Church of England is best seen in her established and public documents, her **Articles, Liturgy, and Homilies**; in her acknowledged and authorized writings, **Jewell's Apology and its defences, Edward the 6th and Nowell's Catechism, and Rogers, Beveridge and Burnet on the 39 Articles**; and in **Hooker's Ecclesiastical Polity.**

Historical Divinity may next be pursued in **Milner's History of the Church of Christ, with Scott's continuation, and Fuller's History of the British Church**; in **Sleidan's History of the Reformation in general, and Burnet's History of the English Reformation**; **Dupin's Abridgement or Mosheim's**, will give an account of the external Church; and a statement of the different sentiments of all professions of religion will be seen in **Adam's View, or Williams's Dictionary.** Under this head may come the **Lives of Eminent Men** (a peculiarly interesting and instructive study), such as

¹ It is to be regretted, that this valuable summary and harmony of the sentiments of all the Reformed Churches has become exceedingly scarce.

Bonnel, Brainerd, Newton, Martyn, Scott, and the like, with Fox's Acts and Monuments of the Martyrs.

The History and Chronology of the Scriptures may be read in Shuckford, Russell, and Prideaux, and its chronological arrangement seen in Townshend's Harmony.—Expository works for reference are mentioned hereafter.

Controversial Divinity will not need much attention. The books already named will suffice for the present, as it regards the Church of England. To meet the Roman Catholics, Usher's Answer to the Jesuit, or Bishop Hall's Treatises should be read; to answer the Socinians, Wardlaw's Socinian Controversy, Dr. Pye Smith's Testimony to the Messiah, and Stillingfleet on the satisfaction of Christ.

Practical Sermons abound; Latimer, Usher, and Milner may be read with much advantage.

We proceed to more enlarged STUDIES FOR THE MINISTRY. Mr. Law has some humorous remarks on the directions given to him, as to the method of studying divinity. Some directing him to the Hebrew originals; others to the Greek Septuagint; others to Church History, Canons, and Councils. Some to the Reformation, to Calvin and Cranmer; others to Chillingworth and Locke, the Preservative against Popery, and the Boyle Lectures. Some to Liturgical Collections; another to the Clementine Constitutions, or to Dr. Clarke, and Mr. Whiston; and others to the history of heretics, and to casuistry and schoolmen. He then supposes himself directed by Rusticus to take the gospel in his hands, and he would stand just in the same situation as the primitive Christian seventeen hundred years ago. He makes this reflection: '*What a project was it to be grasping after the*

knowledge of all the opinions, doctrines, disputes, heresies, schisms, councils, canons, alterations, additions, inventions, corruptions, reformati^ons, sects, and churches, which seventeen hundred years had brought forth through all the extent of the Christian world! What a project this, in order to be a divine!

This mode of reasoning is not, however, satisfactory. Is the church to lose the whole benefit of eighteen hundred years experience? Is the world in the same state to the Christian that it was eighteen hundred years ago? Another preparation may therefore now be requisite to what was then requisite; and other advantages may be now attained that could not be then attained. Nay, to stand in the situation of a Christian seventeen hundred years back, requires that very learning which Rusticus supposes to be unnecessary.

A plan of study for the ministry should be comprehensive; and include a more enlarged scale of reading on each subject already named, as well as criticism, pastoral theology, and hortatory divinity.¹

SACRED CRITICISM is important for ministers.

¹ The course of instruction adopted by Zuinglius at Zurich was well calculated to promote theology. He took the Old and New Testament for the basis of instruction. He required of the professors intrusted with the interpretation of the Greek and Hebrew text, to compare the originals of the sacred writers with the most esteemed versions, such as the Vulgate and the Septuagint; to cite the commentators of the Jewish doctors on the Old Testament, and those of the Fathers on the New; to apply a knowledge of the manners and customs of the Jews to the clearing up of obscure passages, to establish the true sense of each; to show its connection with the other truths of religion, and finally to point out the application of them to be made to morals. These lectures were given in the cathedral, numerous auditors attended, and magistrates and merchants learned to read the scriptures in the original languages.¹

¹ See Hess's Life of Zuinglius, p. 209, 210.

For the purpose of reference, Poole's Synopsis meets almost every want; but for criticism, on the Old Testament, Boothroyd's Hebrew Bible is a convenient compendium of more modern information; and on the New, Doddridge's Expositor, Parkhurst's Greek Lexicon, and Bengelii Gnomon, to which may be joined Middleton on the Greek Article. Criticism may, however, easily be carried too far. Dr. Chalmers says: 'Without depreciating scriptural criticism, we cannot admit that all the additional light which is evolved by it bears more than a very small fractional value to the breadth and glory of that effulgence, which shines from our English Bible on the mind of an ordinary peasant.'

Speaking of the niceties of Biblical criticism, Dean Milner says: 'I do not think that a depth of that kind of knowledge... is at all necessary for students in general, nor do I think much time spent by them in such pursuits would be well spent, especially as it would leave them too little time for the study of other branches of divinity... Experience shows that men may be very knowing in these things, and yet be very poor divines; may spend their lives in the cultivation of this species of knowledge, and yet be neither remarkable for the soundness of their faith in revelation, their skill in apprehending its doctrines, or their zeal in enforcing them.... I would content myself with a very concise and general account of the history and operation of that Biblical criticism, which has brought the text of the Holy Scriptures to its present state of improvement. And, in thus proceeding, I conceive I should act very much on the same rational grounds as calculators do, who hazard their reputation, their own property and that of others; and even their lives on the accuracy of astronomical tables and tables of logarithms.'

Some farther remarks of Dean Milner are too valuable to be omitted.

'This system of confidence,' he continues, 'is by no means to be carried so far as to exclude a very careful personal examination

of the evidences of revelation; those evidences, I mean, which prove that the canonical books of scripture are the genuine writings of authors who had divine authority to teach the Christian religion.

In the pursuit of this object, I esteem the three little volumes of Dr. Paley (his Evidences) containing the marrow of the more elaborate writings of the learned Dr. Lardner, together with his single volume of *Horæ Paulinæ*, far above whole book-cases full of the voluminous undigested speculations of many well-meaning authors.

When the serious student is satisfied, not indeed so as to be able to answer completely every objection with which he may meet, but satisfied that the God of Israel is the true God, and that Jesus Christ, whom he has sent, is the way, the truth, and the life; and that the Holy Scriptures contain every thing that is necessary to salvation; he ought not, according to my views of the importance of time and the use of talents, to spend year after year in attending to minute difficulties and refined speculations, but immediately begin the study of the doctrines of his Bible, and their application to practical purposes. In searching the scriptures, with a view to doctrinal points, the examination of the Articles and Liturgy of the Church of England will claim the peculiar attention of students. These will supply abundant materials for the exercise of all their reasoning faculties, especially if they should be disposed to enter on religious inquiries of the abstruser kind. I will, however, venture to affirm, that the more active and zealous they are in the discharge of the practical duties of their profession, the less time and the less inclination also will they have for the niceties of theoretical disquisitions in divinity.

Dean Milner's remarks on the study of **ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY** are valuable. He says: 'The study of ecclesiastical history, by which I do not mean the secular history of religion, but the history of the true Church of Christ, wherever it is to be found; and also the history of the corruptions of Christian doctrines will furnish a subsidiary attainment, and prove exceedingly useful to the young divine in his pursuits, both by confirming and illus-

trating sound interpretations of scriptural doctrine, and by furnishing the mind with practical maxims for the direction of his conduct.'

PASTORAL THEOLOGY is another very important branch of the studies of those preparing for the Christian ministry. Chrysostom on the Priesthood, Herbert's Country Parson, Baxter's Reformed Pastor, Burnet's Pastoral Care, and Williams' Christian Preacher, and Secker's Charges, are some of the best books on this head.

For **HORTATORY THEOLOGY**, or that which relates directly to preaching, Claude's Composition of a Sermon will furnish many hints. Family exposition, and parochial visitation, and explaining the scriptures to the poor, will by degrees prepare the minister for that kind of viva voce address, which in all ages God has most extensively prospered. The Sermons of Barrow, Stillingfleet, Taylor, Mede, Sherlock, &c. will furnish useful matter; but such as Bishops Reynolds and Beveridge, Milner, Richardson, Simeon, &c. will furnish more especially those evangelical doctrines, which, clearly exhibiting salvation by Christ, are alone eminently blessed of God in giving spiritual life to the hearers.¹

¹ The directions which Archbishop Usher gave to ministers are so generally useful and so excellent, that we subjoin them in a note.

(1.) Read and study the scriptures carefully, wherein is the best learning, and the only infallible truth; they can furnish you with the best materials for your sermons, the only rules of faith and practice, the most powerful motives to persuade and convince the conscience, and the strongest arguments to confute all errors, heresies, and schisms. Therefore be sure, let all your sermons be congruous to them; and to this end it is expedient that you understand them as well in the originals as in the translations.

(2.) Take not hastily up other men's opinions without due trial,

A student needs BOOKS OF REFERENCE. Some are mentioned at the end of this chapter: Cruden's Concordance, and Brown's or Calmet's Dictionary of the Bible will be useful. The student will find it advantageous to make his Bible the index to all his

nor vent your own conceits, but compare them first with the analogy of faith and rules of holiness recorded in the scriptures, which are the proper tests of all opinions and doctrines.

'(3.) Meddle with controversies and doubtful points as little as may be in your popular preaching, lest you puzzle your hearers, or engage them in wrangling disputations, and so hinder their conversion, which is the main design of preaching.

'(4.) Insist most on those points that tend to effect sound belief, sincere love to God, repentance for sin, and that may persuade to holiness of life: press these things home to the conscience of your hearers, as of absolute necessity, leaving no gap for evasions, but bind them as close as may be to their duty. And as you ought to preach sound and orthodox doctrine, so ought you to deliver God's message as near as may be in God's words, that is, in such as are plain and intelligible, that the meanest of your auditors may understand. To which end it is necessary to back all practical precepts and doctrines with apt proofs from the Holy Scriptures, avoiding all exotic phrases, scholastic terms, unnecessary quotations of authors, and forced rhetorical figures, since it is not difficult to make easy things appear hard, but to render hard things easy is the hardest part of a good orator as well as preacher.

'(5.) Get your hearts sincerely affected with the things you persuade others to embrace, that so you may preach experimentally, and your hearers perceive that you are in good earnest; and press nothing upon them, but what may tend to their advantage, and which yourself would venture your own salvation on.

'(6.) Study and consider well the subjects you intend to preach upon, before you come into the pulpit, and then words will readily offer themselves; yet think what you are about to say before you speak, avoiding all uncouth fantastical phrases or words, or nauseous, indecent, or ridiculous expressions, which will quickly bring preaching into contempt, and make your sermons and persons the subjects of sport and merriment.

'(7.) Dissemble not the truths of God in any case, nor comply with the lusts of men, nor give any countenance to sin, by word or deed.

'(8.) But, above all, you must never forget to order your own conversation, as becomes the gospel, that so you may teach, by example as well as by precept, and that you may appear a good divine every where as well as in the pulpit; for a minister's life and conversation is more heeded than his doctrine.

books; inserting in the margin of the Bible reference to the most material illustrations which may be contained in the books which he possesses.

Example often instructs more powerfully than general statement. It may be well then to furnish the student with the pattern of one who made a happy and useful progress in his studies for the ministry; and who has been an eminent blessing to the Church of Christ in our own day, we mean Dr. Buchanan. We have his course at the university very fully detailed by his biographer, from his own letters.

He was brought to the knowledge of the truth before he entered college, and went thither some years later than is usual. Until he was actually at college he cherished the hope of being permitted to devote his chief attention to divinity, and to the mathematics secondarily, but after mature deliberation he gave himself to the prescribed studies of the place. He, however, kept up meetings for prayer, and reading the scriptures, with the more pious students. Pursuing his studies with much eagerness, he felt uncertain whether he should continue to attend both to mathematical, and classical, and logical subjects, at the same time. He found it made him exceedingly languid in devotional duties, and he felt not that delight in divine things which had previously animated him.

(9.) Yet after all this, take heed you be not puffed up with spiritual pride of your own virtues; nor with a vain conceit of your parts or abilities, nor yet be transported with the applause of men, nor dejected, nor discouraged with the scoffs and frowns of the wicked and profane.—See Parr's Life of Usher, pp. 86—89.

Herose at half-past four, and his plan of study as follows :

‡ before	5						
	6	}	Devotional Studies.		6	}	Engagement Recreation
	7				7		
	8	}	Breakfast.		8	}	Classics or I
	9				9		
	10	}	Mathematics.		10	}	Devotional !
	11				11		
	12				12		
	1				1		
	2	}	Dinner and Recreation.		2	}	Sleep.
	3				3		
	4				4		
	5	}	Classics.	‡ after	4		
	6						

He observes that other pious students, who less time to university studies did not appear to forth the fruits that might be expected from the studies which they loved, in living nearer to God. He afterwards, however, was led to think that his circumstances he devoted too much time to academical studies, and having arrived at proficiency in mathematics, he circumscribed academical exercises in order to afford a considerable proportion of the day (the half if possible) for preparation of the gospel of peace. His anxiety, useful to his fellow-students, led him to earnestness for them, and in his last year he laid himself out in great deal to encourage younger men in keeping the path. His diligence was truly exemplary. ' His commonplace books contain abridgements of lectures on anatomy, harmonicks, manufactures, and experimental philosophy ; abstracts of Lock, of Grotius, and on the Evidences of Christianity, of parts of the Wealth of Nations, of Aristotle's Rhetoric, &c.

some historical works. References occur to Bacon, Cudworth, Stillingfleet, and Chillingworth, and other great authors; extracts from various writers, both ancient and modern, chiefly with reference to moral and theological subjects; notes of sermons preached before the university; important historical facts, with occasional reflections upon them; the meaning of remarkable words, phrases, and customs; observations either altogether original, or digested from different authors, and expressed in his own words; on infidelity; on natural and revealed religion; on style and eloquence; on memory and imagination; on real and alleged enthusiasm; and on the use of reason in religion; on various branches of political economy; on the French Revolution; and on war. One of the most useful and interesting portions, however, of these *adversaria*, comprises a series of remarks on different parts of scripture; on the best method of reading the Bible; on the spirit and design of the sacred writings, particularly with respect to their hortatory and practical style; on preaching, and in general on the ministerial office; on prayer; on personal piety; and on the Christian warfare.' All men have not indeed the original powers of Buchanan, but such a bright example as his may stimulate students to higher and more spiritual efforts in the prosecution of their preparatory studies for the ministry.

The late period at which he entered college, and the prospect of his entering the ministry immediately after taking his degree, led him, as we have seen, to give less time to academical pursuits than is ordinarily recommended. Where such a course may not be expedient there will need special watchfulness against that eagerness after literary honours and distinctions to

which the natural heart is abundantly of itself prone, and to which there are such extraordinary incitements in the present day. Henry Martyn seems to have been deeply sensible of the spiritual danger of an intense application to academical studies, and even his zeal was for a moment relaxed in the bright sunshine of those honours which he acquired.

The course of study desirable for those preparing for the ministry, will be more fully and distinctly seen by the books in the following list. They were recommended chiefly by a judicious clergyman to a young friend, as a course of study to be pursued between the time of his taking his degree and entering orders. Some alterations and additions have been made. With respect to the *Evidences*, this clergyman remarks, ‘ Besides the satisfaction of his own mind, it is highly necessary, in this day of prevailing infidelity, for the ministers of Christ to be able to give a reason of the faith that is in them, and to show that he has not followed a cunningly-devised fable.’ With respect to *Popery*, he observes, ‘ the English divines of the Æra of the Reformation, and of the Revolution, and of the intervening period, have raised by their labours in this controversy, a monument which will last as long as genius and learning will be revered in the world. There is reason to fear from the signs of the times, that it will soon become the duty of the faithful minister to engage in a warfare which his predecessors have so triumphantly sustained.’ In respect to the *Institutes of Calvin*, he remarks, ‘ I am not afraid here to observe, in opposition to the illiberal and ignorant prejudices of modern theologians, that the *Institutes of Calvin*, omitting his *Speculations on the*

Divine Decrees, will communicate more sound knowledge than all the systems that have been substituted in its place.' I add also his closing remarks : ' And let it never be forgotten, that our reading will be very ill directed, if it do not begin and end with devout application to the Fountain of all wisdom. The influence of the same Holy Spirit which indited the Sacred Writings must be humbly and constantly sought for their profitable understanding. The books specified may be read as they are placed : but the arrangement is made, not that it should be implicitly followed, but because some order is necessary. The student will adjust it to his taste and convenience. He will analyze and extract, as the importance of the subject which he is examining requires.'

(1.) *Hebrew.*

Simon's Bible, or
Boothroyd's Hebrew Bible.
Schroeder's Grammar.
Robertson's Clavis Pentateuchi.
Bythner's Lyra Prophetica.
Simon's Hebrew Lexicon, or
Gesenius's Hebrew Lexicon.

(2.) *Greek.*

Griesbach's Testament, or
Vater's Testament.
Schleusner's Lexicon.
Parkhurst's Lexicon.

(3.) *Evidences.*

Paley's Evidences.
Paley's Horæ Paulinæ.
Watson's Apologies.
Stillingfleet's Origines Sacre.
Butler's Analogy, by D. Wilson.
Jenkins's Reasonableness, &c.
Cosins on the Canon.
Jones on the Canon.
Lardner's Credibility and Supplement.
Gibson's Pastoral Letters.

(4.) *The Fathers.*

Barnabas.
Clement.
Ignatius.
Polycarp.
Justin Martyr.
Reeves's Apologies of the Fathers.
Daille on the Fathers.
Scultetus Medulla.
Rous's Mella.
Cyprian.

(5.) *Ecclesiastical History.*

Josephus's Works.
Turretine's Compendium.
Milner's History of the Church of Christ, 6 vol. with Scott.
Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, 6 vol.
Burnet's History of the Reformation.
Strype's Memorials and Annals, 13 vol.
Cave's Historia Literaria, 2 vol.
Eusebius.

(6.) *Against Popery.*

Bishop Hall's Three Treatises.

Usher's Answer to the Jesuit.
 Bedell's Life and Letters.
 Chillingworth's Religion of Protestants.
 Pascal's Provincial Letters.
 The Protestant, 4 vol.

(7.) *Church of England.*

Jewell's Apology.
 Hooker's Polity.
 Nicholls on Com. Prayer and Supplement, folio.
 Rogers on the 39 Articles.
 Enchiridion Theolog. 2 vol.
 Dodwell's Athanasian Creed.
 Fathers of the Church, 8 vol.
 Stillingfleet's Origines Britannicæ, &c.

(8.) *Body of Divinity.*

Homilies and Articles.
 Beveridge on the 39 Articles.
 Burnet on the 39 Articles.
 Pearson on the Creed.
 Calvin's Institutes.
 Hopkins's Works.

(9.) *Study of Scripture.*

Horne's Introduction.
 Jennings's Jewish Antiquities.
 Campbell on the four Gospels.
 Jones's Figurative Language.
 Witsii de Prophetia.
 English Translator's Preface.
 Poole's Synopsis.
 Scott's Commentary.
 Simon's Critical History.
 Smith's Scripture Testimony to the Messiah.

(10.) *Pastoral Duties.*

Chrysostom de Sacerdotio.

Erasmii Ecclesiastes.
 Witsii Oratio de vero Theologo.
 Herbert's Country Parson.
 Jer. Taylor's Minister's Duty.
 Burnet's Pastoral Care.
 Cecil's Remains.
 Burnet's Conclus. of his History.
 Wilson's Sacra Privata.
 Wilson's Parochialia.
 Massillon's Charges.
 Charges of Kidder, Spratt, Hort, Butler, Secker, Horne, Horsley.
 Mather's Student and Pastor.

(11.) *Practical Divinity.*

Hall's Contemplations.
 Reynold's Three Treatises.
 Evans on the Christian Temper.
 Law's Serious Call.
 Doddridge's Sermons on Power and Grace of Christ.
 Adams's Works.
 Leighton's Works.

(12.) *Biography.*

Strype's Lives of the Reformers.
 Lives of Usher, Bedell, Baxter, Martyn, Edwards, Newton, Buchanan, Scott, Cecil.
 Buchanan's Researches.

(13.) *Missions.*

Jowett's Researches, 2 vol.
 Abstract of Christian knowledge
 Society Reports.
 Propaganda.
 Horne's Letters.
 Missionary Register.
 Jewish Expositor.

The following is a list of books which was required by one of our Bishops to be known before admission to Holy Orders :

For Deacon's Orders.

The whole Bible in English, referring to the Commentaries of Patrick, Lowth and Burkitt.
 The Gospels at least, in the original language.
 Paley's Evidences.

Pearson on the Creed.
 Burnet's 39 Articles.
 Wheatley on the Common Prayer.
 Tomline's Elements, 1st vol.
 Burnet's Pastoral Care.
 Wilkes's Essay on the Conversion of Ministers.
 Venn's Complete Duty of Man.

For Priest's Orders.

(IN ADDITION.)

The Remainder of the New Testament, in the original, with Pool's Synopsis.

Butler's Analogy, with Bishop Hallifax's Introduction.

Secker's Charges.

Burnet's History of the Reformation. Bishops Newton and Hurd on the Prophecies.

Ecclesiastical History, by Mosheim. History of the Church of Christ, by Milner.

The following directions and lists were given to candidates in another diocese :

Si me conjectura non fallit, totius Reformationis pars integerrima est in ANGLIA ubi cum studio Veritatis viget studium Antiquitatis.

(Isaaci Casaub. Epist. ad Salamis.)

Candidates for Deacons' Orders should be thoroughly versed in the Gospels and the *Acts of the Apostles* in the 'Greek Testament;' and, for those of Priests, in the Epistles in addition. If they can construe them *into correct Latin*, so much the better.

Both Classes ought, likewise, to have a complete knowledge of the Old and New Testament Narratives, the principal Evidences of Christianity, and it's fortunes from the death of it's Divine Founder to it's establishment under Constantine the Great; as likewise of the leading doctrines of the Church of England, its reformation from Popery, and the chief tenets of the various English Dissenters; in many of which particulars Bishop Tomline's 'Elements of Christian Theology' will be found of important service. Dr. Doddridge's 'Family Expositor' is, also, a work which can scarcely be recommended too much, or consulted too frequently.

To this should further be added, a perfect acquaintance with Grotius '*De Veritate Religionis Christianæ*,' and the power of translating with facility any of the Thirty Nine Articles from English into Latin, and *vice versa*.

To occupy the Clergy *after* their ordination, three lists of books are subjoined, adapted (as it is, after much consideration, concluded) to their successive stages of theological proficiency. Many a well-disposed young divine, it may be feared, for want of some such humble guide as is supplied by the First (not pressing too heavily upon either the intellect, or the purse) has gradually felt his purposes of virtuous industry give way, and afforded a melancholy illustration of the sentence of the Roman historian, *Invisa*

primo Desidia potremo amatur. If he render himself master of the first, it can hardly be doubted, that he will seize every opportunity of going on to the second at least. The latter part of the third will be, in every sense, of more arduous acquisition.

N. B.—In several cases, the accurate and judicious reprints of the Clarendon Press will be found both the cheapest and the best editions; but no edition of the works in question can be studied without great advantage.

I.

D'Oyly's and Mant's Bible.
Parkhurst's Greek Lexicon.
Robinson's Theological Dictionary.
Gray's Key to the Old Testament.
Percy's Key to the New Testament.
Horne's Introduction to the Study of the Scriptures.
Jennings' Jewish Antiquities.
Wells' Geography of the Old and New Testament.
Palmer's Bible-Atlas.
Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, by MacLaine.
Burnet's History of the Reformation, abridged by himself.
Jortin on the Truth of the Christian Religion.
Skelton's Deism Revealed.
Paley's Evidences of Christianity.
Paley's Horæ Paulinæ.
Tomline's Elements of Christian Theology.
Nelson's Fasts and Feasts.
Shepherd on the Common Prayer.
Prideaux's Connexion of the Old and New Testament.
Newton's Dissertations on the Prophecies.
Campbell's Dissertation on Miracles.
Secker's Works.
Sherlock's Sermons.
The Clergyman's Assistant (Clarendon Press.)
The Clergyman's Instructor (Clarendon Press.)

II.

Novum Testamentum a Valpy.
Biblia Vulgatæ Editionis.
Routh Reliquiæ Sacræ.
Schleusneri Lexicon in Novum Testamentum.
Schmidii Concordantiæ Græcæ Novi Testamenti.
Elsley's Annotations on the Gospels and Acts.

Slade's Annotations on the Epistles.
Macknight's Harmony of the Gospels.
Stillingfleet's Origines Sacræ.
Sylloge Confessionum sub tempore reformandæ Ecclesiæ.
Pearson on the Creed.
Hooker's Ecclesiastical Polity.
Potter on Church Government.
Campbell on the Gospels.
Macknight on the Epistles.
Butler's Analogy of Natural and Revealed Religion.
Magee on Atonement and Sacrifice.
Beveridge's Thesaurus Theologicus.
Trapp on the Gospels.
Barrow's Select Sermons.
Beausobre's Introduction to the New Testament.
Van Mildert's Bampton Lectures.
Nott's Bampton Lectures.
Watson's Theological Tracts.
(Randolph's) Enchiridion Theologicum.

III.

1.

LXXII Virorum Versio.
Trommii Concordantiæ Græcæ Versionis LXXII.
Biel Thesaurus Philologicus.
Suiceri Thesaurus Ecclesiasticus.
Wetstein Prolegomena in Novum Testamentum.
Cave Ecclesiastica Historia Literaria.
Bulli Opera.
Leland's View of the Deistical Writers.
Marsh's Lectures.
Bennet's Abridgement of the London Cases.
Jones on the Canon of the New Testament.

2.

Walton's Biblia Polyglotta.
Castelli Lexicon.
Parkhurst's Hebrew Lexicon.

De Legibus Hebræorum.
t Dissertatio Generalis.
De Bibliorum Textibus Ori-
ginalibus.
s Lyra Prophetica.
hilogia Sacra, a Dathe.

Fabricii Lux Salutaria Evangelii.
Lowth De Sacra Poesi Hebræorum,
a Michaëlis
Lightfoot's Works.
Michaëlis' Introduction to the New
Testament, by Marsh.

The Curate's Library,

There are many in the situation of curates whose
income renders it utterly impossible for them to procure
rare, or expensive works, and to whom it is
important to have a few of the most useful and
procurable, the most practical and edifying.

The following list is drawn up with reference
to these objects.

(1.) Scriptural.

and's Hebrew Bible.
Greek Testament.
Caesarius's Lexicon.
Stephanus's Greek Lexicon.
Bible, 6 vols. 4to.
Pe's Family Expositor.
Bible.
on the New Testament.
Concordance.
Psalm cxxx.
on the Psalms.
on the Galatians.
Compendium.
Dictionary of the Bible.
on the Prophecies.

Ecclesiastical History.

and Scott's History of the
Church of Christ.
History of the Reformation.
Josephus.

Church of England.

Works.
of the English Church.
Sermons on Catechism.
and Monuments.

(2.) Pastoral Duties.

and's Instructor.
Reformed Pastor.

(3.) Devotional Works.

Doddridge's Regeneration.
Doddridge's Rise and Progress.
Romaine on Faith.
Venn's Complete Duty.
Beveridge's Private Thoughts.
Adams' Private Thoughts.
Arrowsmith's Chain of Principles.
Owen on the Spirit.
Wilberforce's Practical View.

(4.) Works of English Divines.

Bishop Hall's Works, 16 vol.
Bishop Hopkins's Works, 4 vol.
Bishop Reynolds's Works, 1 vol. 8vo.
Archbishop Leighton's Works, 4 vol.
Cecil's Works, 2 vol.
Newton's Works, 6 vol.
Flavel's Works, 6 vol.

(5.) Sermons.

Burder's Village Sermons.
Cooper's Sermons.
Milner's Sermons.
Richardson's Sermons.
Beveridge's Sermons.
Beveridge's Thesaurus Theologicus.
Simeon's Skeletons.

(6.) Biography.

Lives of Alleine, P. Henry, Martyn,
Brainerd, Scott.

Those who have small means should 'be cautious not to purchase books which they do not want, but those which will be of great and standing use to them, as divines through life: such as some good critics, commentators, and practical writers.'

Want of learning has been sometimes brought as a reproach against laborious ministers very unjustly. It is not surprizing that ministers who spend their strength among their people are frequently not able in mere points of learning to cope with those who not feeling the value of the direct labours of the ministry, give their time entirely to studies: but if there be this apparent disadvantage, it is abundantly compensated by the practical character of their knowledge, and their experimental acquaintance with the power of the truths which they hold. Place two ministers by a sick bed, one of whom has only theological learning, and the other scriptural knowledge and Christian experience, and it will be soon obvious who can most wisely and beneficially address himself to the necessities of the case.

Having thus given a general view of the preparatory course of study requisite for Christians and students for the ministry, we shall in the following chapters add those lists of books which are serviceable for different classes in society, and then more fully and distinctly those which may lead the minister of Christ to a more enlarged acquaintance with divinity.

But let the reader in the midst of books not lose sight of the insufficiency of books for teaching that which he desires to acquire, and evermore seek that unction from above which the anointed Saviour, in whom is all the fulness of grace, liberally bestows on

all that seek it from him. Some have found having always at hand a devotional book, to be going through with, and to take up at intervals of study, has assisted them in resisting that tendency which literature has to invade spirituality. O that our hearts may never be buried in human writings, that we may ever rise above them all to him who is the Light of life, the wonderful Counsellor, and the abiding Prophet of his church !

CHAPTER XIV.

RELIGIOUS LIBRARIES FOR PERSONS IN VARIOUS CLASSES OF SOCIETY.

THE Author devotes this chapter to little more than lists of books. His object is to direct Christians in general to those works which may be most suitable and profitable to them. Characters of the authors will occasionally be given in the more enlarged and arranged list, entitled the Ministers' Library.

After acquiring some general knowledge of religion, intelligent Christians will desire to carry forward and increase this knowledge, and to read for daily edification of heart. In this view an enlarged list may be useful.

It must not be supposed that every sentiment in each book here mentioned is wholly unexceptionable. That is true only of the inspired writings, and all others must be tried by them. Nor must it be supposed that very many books, not included in the lists here given, are not equally worthy of insertion, and equally *profitable to read*. Circumstances bring some books

in the way of one person, and others in the way of another person; and the author is very far from wishing to assume, or dictate, and is only desirous of giving such help as he may be able.

The Author is personally acquainted with a considerable number of the books named, but it is right to mention that it is sometimes from a general knowledge of the writers, and frequently from an old recollection, or a cursory review, that he inserts a book. In many cases also he has inserted a work from the recommendation of others in whom he had confidence.

A candid reader, who might be disposed on first looking at the lists to complain of them as imperfect and wanting in discrimination, will be ready to admit, on subsequent reflection, the extreme difficulty of attaining precision in the several departments.

The following Lists are given.

1. The Religious Library of the Private Christian in middle life.

2. The Tradesman's Religious Library.

3. The Lady's Religious Library.

4. Poor Man's Religious Library.

5. Youth's Religious Library.

6. The Nursery Religious Library.

(1.) *The Religious Library of the Christian in the middle or higher stations of life with nearly 300 Select Works.*

The following list of books is designed to assist the Christian in the middle ranks of life, in pursuing a course of study that may both inform his mind and edify his heart. Most persons, even when their views are in the main correct, take up their religious know-

ledge in far too cursory a manner, and in too limited a range, and hence they are apt to be driven about by every wind of doctrine. It will be easy to enlarge this list by books hereafter-mentioned, or to diminish it by selecting only a few from each class into which it is subdivided.

(1.) *Scripture.*

Bible with References.
 Paley's Evidences and
 Horne Pauline.
 Haldane's Evidences.
 Brakine's Internal Evidence.
 Gregory's Letters.
 Leifchild's Help.
 Horne's Deism refuted.
 Boyle on the Scriptures.
 Jones's Scripture Directory, or
 Horne's Introduction.
 Wilson's Lectures on Evidences.
 Lowth's Lectures, by Gregory.
 Newton on the Prophecies.
 Clarke's Promises.
 Spurstow on the Promises.
 Jones's Scripture Antiquities.
 Robinson's Scripture Characters.
 Brown's Dictionary of the Bible.
 Butterworth's Concordance, or
 Cruden's Concordance.
 Scott on the Bible, or
 Henry on the Bible, or
 Boys's New Testament.
 Doddridge on the New Testament.
 Horne on the Psalms.
 Bridges on the crix. Psalm.
 Lowth on Isaiah.
 Jones on Jonah.
 Luther on Galatians.
 Leighton on Peter.

(2.) *Church of England.*

Prayer Book and Homilies.
 Hooker's Ecclesiastical Polity.
 Brock's Affectionate Address.
 Wilk's Correlative Claims.
 Biddulph's Essays on the Liturgy.
 Pearson on the Creed.
 Vivian on the Catechism.
 Walker on the Catechism.
 Jewell's Apology.
 D. Wilson on Confirmation.
 Wilson on the thirty-nine Articles.
 Bristol Church of England Tracts,
 Scholar Armed, 2 vol.

(3.) *Devotions.*

Bennett's Christian Oratory.
 Kenn's Manual of Prayers.
 Andrew's Devotions.
 Still's Home Private.
 Herbert's Temple.
 Jenks's Prayers.
 Cotterill's Family Prayers.
 Knight's Family Prayers.
 Swete's Family Prayers.
 Watts's, Olney, Kelly's, Rippon's and
 Hart's Hymns.

(4.) *Family Sermons.*

Cooper, 6 vol. W. C. Wilson, 2 vol.
 Burder, 8 vol. Richardson, 2 vol.
 Davy, 3 vol. Milner, 3 vol.

(5.) *Baptism.*

Bradford.
 Henry on Baptism.
 Jerram's Conversations.
 Budd on Infant Baptism.

(6.) *Lord's Supper.*

Bishop Wilson. Earl.
 Henry. Haweis.
 Mason. D. Wilson.

(7.) *Historical and Biographical.*

Douglas's Advancement of Society.
 Milner's Hist. of the Church, 5 vols.
 Scott's Continuation of Milner.
 Whiston's Josephus.
 Fuller's Church History of Britain.
 Edwards's History of Redemption.
 Prideaux's Connection, 4 vol.
 Shuckford's Connection, 4 vol.
 Fox's Acts and Monuments, 3 vol.
 Burnet's History of Reformation,
 6 vol.
 Adam's Religious World, 2 vol.

Williams's Dictionary of Religions.
 Gilpin's Lives of the Reformers.
 Stowell's Life of Wilson.
 Walton's Lives.
 Lives of Bonnell, Doddridge, two
 Henrys, Newton, Fletcher, Roch-
 ester, Hale, Halyburton, Brainerd,
 Martyn, Scott, Richmond.
 Brown's Propagation of Gospel,
 2 vol. or
 Smith's History of Missions.
 Custance on the British Constitution.

(8.) *Popery.*

[See List page 411.]

White against Roman Catholicism.
 Fletcher's Lectures on Popery.

(9.) *Practical and Theological.*

Adam's Private Thoughts.
 Ambrose's Looking to Jesus, 2 vol.
 Augustine's Confessions.
 Bates Harmony of Divine Attributes.
 Baxter's Converse with God.
 Baxter's Dying Thoughts.
 Baxter's Saints' Rest.
 Barrow's Sermons, 6 vol.
 Baxteriana by Young.
 Beveridge's Private Thoughts.
 Bowdler's Select Pieces.
 Bradford's Letters.
 Brooks on Assurance.
 Cecil's Remains.
 Chalmers's Sermons.
 Charnock's Two Discourses.
 Craig's Pastoral Address on Regene-
 ration.
 Doddridge's Rise and Progress.
 Dwight's Theology, 5 vol.
 Edwards on the Affections.
 Flavel's Fountain of Life.
 Flavel on Providence.
 Flavel's Touchstone of Sincerity.
 Flavel's Saint Indeed.
 Fletcher's Appeal.
 Gurnal's Christian Armour, 2 vol.
 Gisborne's Natural Theology.
 Gipps on Regeneration.
 Hall's Contemplations, or
 Hall's Select Works, 5 vol.
 Hale's Meditations.
 Hervey's Meditations.
 Hervey's Theron and Aspasio, 2 vol.
 Hopkins's Works, 4 vol.
 Horne on the Trinity.
 Howe's Blessedness of the Righteous
 Howe's Delighting in God.
 Jamieson on the Heart, 2 vol.
 Jenk's Submission to Righteousness.
 Jewell's Works, 2 vol. folio.

Latimer's Sermons, 2 vol.
 Law's Serious Call.
 Leighton's Works, 4 vol.
 Locke on Toleration.
 Maclaurin's Works.
 More's Practical Piety.
 More's Christian Morals.
 More's Moral Sketches.
 Newton's Cardiphonia and Omicron.
 Owen on Communion with God.
 Oweniana by Young.
 Owen on Spiritual Mindedness.
 Owen on the 130th Psalm.
 Owen on Indwelling Sin.
 Pascal's Thoughts.
 Paley's Natural Theology.
 Rambach's Meditations.
 Religious Tract Society Tracts, 6 vol.
 Romaine on the Law and Gospel.
 Robinson's Christian System.
 Rutherford's Letters, with Erskine's
 Introduction.
 Scott's Essays and Treatises.
 Scudder's Christian's Daily Walk.
 Serle's Christian Remembrancer.
 Serle's Home Solitarie.
 Scougal's Works.
 Sturm's Reflections.
 Stennet's Domestic Duties.
 Taylor, Bp. Select Works.
 Trail's Works.
 Usher's Body of Divinity.
 Usher's Sermons.
 Venn's Duty of Man.
 Wardlaw's Socinian Controversy.
 Walker's Practical Christianity.
 Walker's Christian.
 Walker's Christ the Purifier.
 Wilberforce's Practical View.
 Witherspoon on Regeneration.
 Witherspoon's Essays.

(10.) *Education.*

More's Stricture's on Female Edu-
 cation.
 Mrs. Hamilton's Letters.
 More's Hints to a Princess.
 Locke on Education.
 Witherspoon's Five Letters on Edu-
 cation.
 Mrs. Hoare's Nursery Hints.
 Babington on Education.

(11.) *Missions.*

Horne's Letters.
 Buchanan's Researches.
 Jowett's Researches.
 Propaganda.
 Abstract of Christian Knowledge
 Jewish Expositor.
 Missionary Register.

Considerable facilities having been furnished for access to valuable practical works, by their republication in a regular series, and in a cheap form; the Author has much pleasure in inserting some lists of these works.

There are some valuable works among those published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The following are selected from their list :

Gastrell's Institutes.
Wells's Geography.
Andrew's Devotions.
Horne's Psalms.
Kenn's Manual.
Wilson's Sacra Privata.
Beveridge on Common Prayer.
Watts's Divine Songs.
Wood's Principles.
Secker on the Catechism.
Bradford on Regeneration.
Wilson on the Lord's Supper.
Scougal's Life of God.
Jones on the Trinity.

Porteus's Summary.
Burgess's Catechisms.
Dodwell on the Athanasian Creed.
Burkitt's Guide to Christian Families.
Watson's Apology.
Charges to Missionaries.
Stonehouse's Tracts.
Thorold on Popery.
Secker's Sermons against Popery.
Jones's Book of Nature.
Walton's Lives.
Horne's Lives.
Davy's Village Dialogues.

The Rev. C. Bradley has edited a valuable reprint of some of the best English Practical and Devotional Pieces, entitled *The British Divines*.

Another series has been published, entitled *The Miniature Editions, or Traveller's Library*.

Chalmers and Collins, of Glasgow, are also publishing similarly useful works, with valuable Introductions by eminent modern writers, as follows,

Alleine's Alarm, by Thomson.
Butler's Analogy by D. Wilson.
Thomas a Kempis, by Dr. Chalmers.
Christian Psalmist, by Montgomery.
Witherspoon on Justification and Regeneration, by Wilberforce.
Gambold's Works, by Erskine.
Howe's Redeemer's Tears, by Gordon.
Adam's Private Thoughts by D. Wilson.
Doddridge's Rise and Progress, by Foster.
Guthrie's Christian's Great Interest, by Chalmers.
Rutherford's Letters, by Erskine.

Walker's Christian, by Simeon.
Edwards on Religious Affections, by Young.
Mead's Almost Christian, by Young.
Pascal's Thoughts on Religion, by Foster.
Shaw's Immanuel, by Gordon.
The Christian's Companion in Solitude, by Young.
Romaine's Treatises on Faith by Chalmers.
Bernard Gilpin's Life, by Irving.
Serle's Christian Remembrancer, by Chalmers.
Baxter's Saint's Rest, by Erskine.
Halyburton's Memoirs, by Young.

The Minister's Companion, by Gordon.
McLaurin's Essays and Sermons, by Brown.
Cowper's Poems, by Montgomery.
Open on Spiritual Mindedness, by Chalmers.
Henry's Communicant's Companion, by Browne.
Horne on the Psalms, by Irving.

Mather's Essays to do good, by Thomson.
Owen on Indwelling sin, by Chalmers.
Baxter's Call, by Chalmers.
Law's Serious Call, by Young.
Hale on the Knowledge of Christ, by Young.
Scudder's Christian's Daily Walk, by Chalmers.

(2) *The Tradesman's Religious Library; 100 Select Religious Works.*

Scriptures.

Bible, with References.
Horne's Compendious Introduction.
Jones's Scripture Directory.
Lefebvre's Help to reading the Scriptures.
Monthly Lectures.
Kelch's Fulfillment of Prophecy.
Fuller's Gospel its own Witness.
Bridges on the 119th Psalm.
Bogatzky's Golden Treasury.
Jones's Jonah.
Clarke's Promises.
Horne on the Psalms.
Owen on Psalm 130.
Scott, or Henry, or Brown on the Bible.
Barkitt or Boys on the New Testament.
Butterworth's Concordance.
Alford on St. Matthew.

Church of England.

Common Prayer Book.
Homilies.
Bristol Church of England Tracts.
Scott's Force of Truth.
Walker on the Catechism, 2 vol.
Jenkins on the Liturgy.
Bishop Burgess's Easter Catechisms.
Davy's Village Dialogues on the Liturgy.
Watkin's St. Swithin's Parochial Tracts.

Devotions and Sacraments.

Hymn Book—Olney and Hart's Hymns.
Montgomery's Christian Psalmist.
Daily Help to Devotion.
Jenks's Prayers.
Read's Christian Retirement.
Serle's Christian Remembrancer.
Swete's Family Prayers.
Burder's Family Sermons.

Budd on Baptism.
Henry's Communicant's Companion.
Kenn's Manual of Prayers.
Jerram's Conversations on Baptism.
Pocket Prayer Book.

History and Biography.

History of the Church of Christ, by the Religious Tract Society, 6 vol.
Adam's Religious World abridged.
The Lollards and Days of Queen Mary.
Fox's Martyrs.
Blackader's Life, by Crichton.
Bonnell, Life of.
Burn's Life.
Burnham's Pious Memorials.
Christian Biography, by Religious Tract Society.
Martyn's Life.
Middleton's Evangelical Biography, 4 vols.
Life of Mrs. Huntington.
Life of M. Sheriff.
Life of Mrs. Savage and Hulton.
Life of Mrs. A. Dawson.
Life of Alleine and Letters.

Practical.

Alleine's Alarm to the Unconverted.
Adam's Private Thoughts.
Brooke's Precious Remedies.
Bunyan's Heart's Ease.
Baxter's Dialogues on Family Religion.
Buck's Christian Expositor.
Barker's Parent's Monitor.
Buck on Religious Experience.
Baxter's Saint's Rest.
Boston's Crook in the Lot.
Boston's Four-Fold State.
Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, with Scott's Notes.

Alexander, *Memoirs of*
 ed's Dying Thoughts.
 dge's Rise and Progress of
 tion.
 dge's Friendly Instructor.
 dge's Life of Col. Gardiner.
 s Fountain of Life.
 on Providence.
 s Saint Indeed.
 s Husbandry.
 ly Visitor.
 ly Advice to Christian Parents.
 in's Child of Light.
 s Directions to walk with God.
 s Christian in Complete
 our.
 e's Trial of an Interest in
 st.
 Help to Zion's Traveller.
 r's Theron and Aspasio.
 on's Songs in the Night.
 ay's Heaven upon Earth.
 s Prodigal's Pilgrimage.
 on the Trinity.
 s Immanuel.
 on's Selections, by Dr. Wilson.
 s Remains.
 r's Essays to do Good.
 s Traveller.
 s Believer's Companion.
 s Christian's Companion for
 Sabbath.
 n's Works.

Owen on Mortification of Sin.
 Owen on Temptation.
 Rawlin on Justification.
 Robinson's Scripture Characters.
 Romaine on the Law and Gospel.
 Romaine on Life, Walk and Tri-
 umph of Faith.
 Retrospect.
 Richmond's Tracts.
 Shaw's Immanuel.
 Scott's Essays.
 Scott's Tracts.
 Scudder's Christian's Daily Walk.
 Shower on Time and Eternity.
 Stuckly's Gospel Glass.
 Serle's Horæ Solitariae.
 Steel's Religious Tradesman.
 Steel on Distractions.
 Select Sermons, by Religious Tract
 Society.
 The Week complete.
 Venn's Complete duty of Man.
 Walker's Christian.
 Wilberforce's Practical View.
 Watts' and Howe's Meditations.

Missions.

Bardet's Missionary Anecdotes.
 Edward's Life of Brainerd.
 Life of John Eliot.
 Life of Mrs. Newell.

The Lady's Religious Library ; 75 Select Works.

Scriptures.

with references.
 Scripture Reader's Guide.
 s Concordance.
 on on Peter, with Pearson's
 on the Psalms.
 Reflections on New Testa-
 -
 ae on the 107th Psalm.
 y's Letters.

Church of England.

on Prayer Book.
 es.
 s Affectionate Address.
 r's Companion to the Temple.
 ph's Ecclesiastica.
 r or Vivian on Church Cate-
 -.

Devotions and Sacraments.

Sheppard on Private Devotion.
 Jenks' Prayers.
 Bennett's Christian Oratory.
 Mrs. Rowe's Devout Exercises.
 Mrs. More's Spirit of Prayer.
 Augustine's Confessions.
 Arndt's Garden of Paradise.
 Mason on the Lord's Supper.
 Corbet's Self-Employment.
 Orton's Religious Exercises.
 Baxter's Dying Thoughts.
 Budd on Baptism.
 Earle's Sacramental Exercises.
 Horneck's Crucified Jesus.
 Rambach on the Sufferings of Christ.
 Keble's Christian Year.
 Montgomery's Christian Psalmist.

History and Biography.

Fry's History of the Church of Christ.
 or Milner's History and Scott's
 Continuation.

Williams' Dictionary of all Religions.
 Burnet's History of the Reformation.
 Fox's Martyrs.
 Browne, Catherine, Memoirs of
 Bury, Mrs. Memoirs of
 Burder's Memoirs of Pious Women,
 3 vol.
 Graham, Mrs. Life of
 Glenorchy, Lady, Life of
 Huntington, Mrs. Life of
 Patterson, Mrs. Life of, by Swan.
 Richmond's Relic.
 Young, Mrs. Diary.

Practical.

Bowdler's Essay on Happiness of
 the Life to come.
 Braidwood's Parental Duties.
 Colquhoun on Spiritual Comfort.
 Cruso on a Tender Conscience.
 Dewar on Personal and Family Re-
 ligion.
 Doddridge's Rise and Progress of
 Religion.
 Flavel's Saint Indeed.
 Flavel on Providence.
 Gilfillan's Domestic Piety.
 Hall's Help to Zion's Travellers.
 Hall's Contemplations.
 Hervey's Meditations, and Theron
 and Aspasio.
 Howe's Blessedness of the Righteous.
 James' Sunday School Teacher's
 Guide.

Jesus Showing Mercy.
 Lawson's Sermons on Relative Du-
 ties.
 Meikle's Solitude Sweetened.
 Mrs. More's Works.
 Owen on Spiritual Mindedness.
 Peers' Minutiae, 2 vols. 12mo.
 Reynolds' Life of Christ.
 Rogers on Sickness and Recovery.
 Romaine on the Law and Gospel.
 Russel's Letters Consolatory and
 Practical.
 Select Sermons by the Tract Society.
 Serle's Horæ Solitariae, 2 vol.
 Serle's Christian Parent.
 Sibbe's Bruised Reed.
 Smith, Miss, Fragments.
 Spurstowe on the Promises.
 Stennett on Domestic Duties.
 Theological Gems.
 Thornton's Fruit of the Spirit.
 Walker's Christian.
 Walker's Practical Christianity.
 Watson on Contentment.

Missions.

Life of Martyn.
 Life of Buchanan.
 Life of Mrs. Newell.
 Mrs. Judson's Account of Burman
 Empire.
 The Missionary Register.

(4) The Poor Man's Religious Library; about 50 Select Works.

Scriptures.

The Bible with References.
 Bogatzsky's Treasury.
 Jones' Scripture Directory.
 Doddridge's Evidences.
 Sim's Christian Child's Reasons for
 Believing.
 Watts' Scripture History.
 Robinson's Scripture Characters,
 abridged,
 Brown's Bible, or
 Reformer's Bible, or
 Burkitt's or Boy's New Testament.
 Whish's Cottage Dictionary.

Church of England.

Common Prayer Book.
 Select Homilies.
 Robinson's Serious Call to Attend-
 ance on Church.

Vivian on the Church Catechism.
 Beveridge's Sermon on Common
 Prayer.
 Bristol Church of England Tracts.
 Davy's Village Conversations on the
 Liturgy, 3 vol.

Devotions.

Pocket Prayer Book.
 Cottage Hymn Book.
 Haweis on the Sacrament.
 Cottage Sermons by Tract Society.

History and Lives.

Sim's Christian Records.
 Alleine's Life.
 Newton's Life.
 Milner's Life of Howard.
 Burder's Missionary Anecdotes.

Practical.

lently Advice to Christian

larm.

ill.

Guide to Pilgrims.

illage Sermons.

Pilgrim's Progress, with

otes.

Ioly War.

ice to Servants.

Discourses.

ostitory Tracts, 3 vol.

gazine.

Monthly Visitor.

isitor, 10 vol.

Complete.

Flavel's Saint Indeed.

Flavel's Touchstone of Sincerity.

Hervey's Meditations.

Halyburton's Great Concern.

Henry's Pleasantness of a Religious

Life.

Jesus Showing Mercy.

Newton's Cardiphonia.

Norden's Poor Man's Rest.

Religious Tract Society Tracts.

Richmond's Tracts.

Reynolds's Compassionate Address.

Mrs. Sherwood's Tracts.

Watts' and Howe's Meditations.

Sibbes's Soul's Conflict.

W. C. Wilson's Tracts.

Friendly Visitor.

Tract Magazine.

The Youth's Library ; 50 Select Works.

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eth's Catechism on the

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Jones' Prodigal.

Lawson's Joseph.

Life of Edward the Sixth.

Martyn's Life.

May's Sermons to Young.

Missionary Geography.

Meade's Good of Early Obedience.

Newton's Letters, by Tract Society.

Paley's Natural Theology.

Paternal Solitude, Expressions of

Pike's Consolations of Gospel Truth.

Pocket Prayer Book.

Pike's Persuasive to Early Piety.

Richmond's Annals.

Scott on Repentance.

Scripture Natural History.

Taylor's Contributions of Q. Q.

Thornton's Advantages of Early

Piety.

Thornton's Maxims and Directions

for Young.

Taylor's Book of Martyrs.

Taylor's Picturesque Piety.

Watkins's Sunday School Tracts.

Wilson's Youthful Memoirs.

Watts' Scripture History.

Pierre and his Family.

Youth's Magazine.

Jessy Allan.

Life of E. Salmond.

Memoirs of Remarkable Children.

Sherwood's Infant's Progress.

Missionary Stories.

Baxter's Compassionate Counsel to

Young.

Doddridge's Rise and Progress.

(6) *The Nursery Religious Library; 40 Select Works.*

Having found a difficulty in selecting books for his own children, from the immense number published and publishing, the author thinks that parents may be glad to have the following hints and list.

Children will very soon after they are able to read take an interest in reading: knowledge is to the mind what food is to the body, and the mind as naturally desires the one as the body does the other. It must ordinarily, in the first instance, be narratives, which will interest the infant mind, though the author is somewhat afraid of any thing like religious novels and indeed of all books which contain unreal views of human character and ordinary life. Children will soon be interested in things relating to God, and the great truths of religion, when brought before them in a simple and easy form. It has been seen that when they become delighted with reading from narratives, they will by degrees desire more solid books. The following are adapted to children under ten years of age.

The Bible.

The Common Prayer Book.

Watts' Divine Songs.

Dodderidge's Principles.

Hymns for Infant Minds.

Original Poems.

Nursery Rhymes.

Milk for Babes.

Bible Stories, 2 vol.

More's Bible Rhymes.

Poems for Infant Minds, 2 vol.

Sherwood's Fairchild Family.

Sherwood's Little Woodman.

Sherwood's Henry and his Bearer.

Watts' 1st and 2d Catechism and

Prayers.

Emblems for Children.

Ears of Wheat.

Emma and her Nurse.

Short Stories, Rel. Tr. Society.

The Young Cottager.Janeway's Token, by Mrs. Cameron,
2 vol.

History of Joseph Green.

History of Africaner.

Stowell's Sophia Leece.

Edward, or the Malabar Boy.

Margaret White.

Letters to a very Little Girl.

Little Bessiana.

Wilson's Sermons to Children.

Sermons to Children, by a Lady.

Child's Companion, Monthly.

Children's Friend, Monthly.

Stories of Animals.

Fuller's Child's Scripture Examiner.

Taylor's Bunyan explained.

Visit to the Farm Yard.

Memoirs of Mrs. E. Davidson.

Infant School Repository.

Scripture Stories.

History of Moses and Joseph.

CHAPTER XV.

ON PAROCHIAL RELIGIOUS LIBRARIES, AND THE DIFFUSING OF RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE BY TRACTS.

WHATEVER objections might once have been raised to the instruction of the poorer classes, the progress of education and the advanced cultivation of the human mind, no longer leaves any option whether they shall be educated or not. The friends of religion will now only endeavour to improve such powerful engines to the utmost, by giving them a right direction and a Christian influence.

A wise Christian will indeed see no cause for alarm, but rather much cause for hope and joy, in this advancement. He knows that his religion is of God, and that all the light that every human intellect and every human research can bring forth, will in the result, establish and extend that religion: it rejoices in the light of knowledge.

In the mean time, the Christian must not be idle, but diligent. The first tendency of every human acquisition is, through the strong bias of our fallen nature, only to evil; and the evil can only be counteracted, and the tide rolled back, with an accession of strength by the heavenly, purifying, and sanctifying principles and influences of our holy religion. Great then is the value and importance of all religious societies, and all efforts for diffusing those principles and extending that influence.

In this view we may regard the subject of the present chapter, relating to PAROCHIAL RELIGIOUS

LIBRARIES, AND THE DIFFUSING OF RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE BY TRACTS.

ON PAROCHIAL RELIGIOUS LIBRARIES, the sentiments of the Author are so fully expressed in the following remarks prefixed to the Catalogue of the Yoxall Parochial Library, that he cannot do better than quote them, in the hope that it may lead to the establishment of many similar libraries. The list of books added is not precisely the same as in the Yoxall library, though most of the books are included. Books are often presented to a library, and will do good also, which yet would not be those exactly chosen by one who had to buy them for that library.

‘ Among the different measures which have been devised for promoting the moral and religious improvement of a parish, the establishment of a parochial library, for the purpose of furnishing the inhabitants with the temporary loan of proper and useful books, has been found to be productive of great advantages. The beneficial tendency indeed of such an establishment, under judicious management and control, must be obvious. By providing the population with a recreation, not only innocent but improving, not only rational but instructive, it insensibly operates to counteract their propensity, and to weaken their attachment to other recreations of a very opposite character and tendency. There is scarcely any person, however constant and laborious his general occupations may be, but who, in the course of the week, has some little time unoccupied: and surely, to furnish him, during such an interval from more serious avocations, with an employment, which at once may amuse, refresh, and edify him, and which, by attaching him to his own fire-side, and interesting the little circle collected around it, may prevent him from wandering abroad for company and amusement, is rendering to him, to his family, and to the community, no inconsiderable service. A man, who finds a pleasure in reading and cultivating his mind, will neither frequent the ale-house, nor molest the neighbourhood by poaching and thieving.—Such are some of the moral benefits arising from these parochial institutions.

‘Nor are the religious advantages resulting from them less clear. The Bible indeed is **THE BOOK**, which of itself constitutes the poor man’s library : and thanks be to God ! there is no man, however poor, who, in these times, may not be in possession of a Bible. But while the Scriptures are the only foundation for religious knowledge and practice, and are ‘able to make men wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus ;’ there are yet many other books, which through the divine blessing may be made profitable to them ; which may assist them in understanding and applying the Scriptures, may aid their devotion, and promote in them spirituality of mind. The facility therefore, which the parochial library affords of procuring such books, is a privilege, of which those persons, who have not other means of obtaining them, may successfully avail themselves. The Sunday is, or may be, for the most part a season of leisure ; nor can those hours of the sacred day, which are not immediately devoted to the worship of God, be generally more profitably or consistently employed than in religious reading and study. And it is owing perhaps in part to the want of some little variety of books, which by diversifying the mode of formation, might the more readily engage and interest the mind, that so many persons who are capable of reading, yet find the Sunday hang heavy on their hands, and waste so much of its precious time in listless and unprofitable idleness.

‘But it is in seasons of sickness and affliction, that the value of the parochial library is principally to be seen. At these seasons, persons are not unfrequently confined for days, perhaps for weeks, or even months, to the sick chamber, or the fire-side, under circumstances the most favourable for the admission and improvement of religious impressions. At such times, then the opportunity of procuring a supply of useful and interesting books, may be of inculcable benefit to the invalid : since such a supply will not only tend to divert the mind and to relieve the weariness occasioned by lingering confinement and a necessary cessation from ordinary occupations ; but it may also lead, under the divine blessing, to a most seasonable and profitable improvement of the dispensation itself. Such a dispensation is often blessed by God to spiritual good. It is an instrument which he employs for preparing the heart to receive the good seed : and frequently a religious book, which at other times has failed of its object, has *then* found its way to the

heart, and has awakened serious reflections, which have led to the most important results.

‘ Such are some of the *general* arguments in recommendation of parochial libraries. But these arguments press with *particular* force at the present period ; when the benefits of education are so much more widely diffused than formerly, and consequently the means of extending the advantages, arising from these institutions, are so greatly facilitated. The population, being now taught to read, will exercise their privilege : and possessing this new source of information and amusement, will naturally make use of it. The providing them therefore with a supply of proper and useful books becomes, if not a point of Christian duty, yet at least an act of *seasonable* and well-directed benevolence : while the mode of instruction pursued in the numerous schools now conducted on the national system of education—a mode which in its legitimate tendency inculcates a taste and thirst for religious knowledge, a love for the Bible, a veneration for Sunday and the Church, as well as general habits of order and moral obedience—encourages strongly the hope, that a large proportion of the children so instructed and educated, will be favourably disposed, as they grow up, to the reading of serious and religious books, and thus will *thankfully* and profitably avail themselves of the assistance afforded by these institutions, wherever they may exist.

‘ On these grounds, general and particular, a small library is now provided for the gratuitous use of the inhabitants of Yoxall Parish. In selecting the books for this purpose, it has been endeavoured, so far as is consistent with the main object in view, to blend amusement with instruction : and consequently among several works of a cast professedly and decidedly religious, others have been introduced of rather a different complexion ; which under the form of biography and narrative, illustrate the nature and effects of true religion ; and, while they inculcate and confirm sound principles, amuse and interest by the attractive mode, in which the instruction is conveyed.

‘ It remains only to be stated, that all the books, which at present compose this library, or which may hereafter be added to it, are equally free and open to all persons, *now*, or *at any future time*, residing in the parish of Yoxall : who on application, will be

allowed the use and perusal of any one volume at a time, and are only requested to attend to the following rules.

1. Not to suffer the book, while in their possession, to be soiled or otherwise injured.
2. Not to let it go out of their own possession.
3. To return it safely when read, and not in any instance to keep it longer than a month.

Attendance will be given at the school for the purpose of lending and receiving the books, on every evening, from — o'clock till —, ¹

Catalogue of Books for a Parochial Religious Library.

CLASS. I.

Scriptures.

Scott on the Bible, 6 vol.
Burkitt's New Testament.
Adam on Matthew.
Guyse's Paraphrase, 6 vol.
Hall's Contemplations, 3 vol.
Leighton on Peter.
Luther on Galatians.
Watts's Scripture History.
Robinson's Scripture Characters.
Jones' Scripture Directory.
Jones' Jonah.
Scripture Stories.
Jones on the Trinity.
Newton on the Prophecies.
Fuller's Gospel its own Witness.

CLASS. II.

Historical.

Milner's Church History, (6 vols.)
a cheap edition by the Religious
Tract Society.
Josephus's Wars of the Jews.
Burnet's Abridg. of Reformation.
Burder's Missionary Anecdotes,
Bible Society Reports.
Missionary Society Reports.
Missionary Register.
Buchanan's Researches.
Fox's Martyrs.
The Youth's Magazine.
Cottage Magazine.
The Lollards,

¹ The following are the Rules of another Parish Religious Library.

- I. Every Subscriber shall pay at least One Penny per Week.
- II. No Person to be admitted as a Subscriber without the Approbation of the Treasurer, the Rev. — by whom the Books shall be chosen.
- III. The Time which each Book is to be kept out to be marked on the Cover.
- IV. If any Book be kept out beyond the prescribed time, One Halfpenny per day to be forfeited, and applied to the Funds of the Library.
- V. The Subscriptions to be collected Quarterly.
- VI. A Subscriber, at the end of Five Years, shall be free for Life.
- VII. If any Subscriber shall not have paid his Subscription by the last day in every year, he shall forfeit his Subscription.
- VIII. In case of Two Persons applying for the same Book, Priority of Application to be attended to; and, if Two Applications are made at the same time, then, Priority of Subscription.
- IX. If any books are returned in a soiled or torn state, the Subscriber to pay such a Fine as the Librarian and Treasurer shall direct; and no Book shall be issued out to such Subscriber until the Fine be paid.
- X. Application to be made to the Librarian, Mr. —, on Mondays and Thursdays, from 12 to 2, and from 6 to 8 o'clock.

The Days of Queen Mary.
Edwards on Redemption.

CLASS III.

Biographical.

Hamilton's Life of Bonnel.
Burnet's Lives of Hale and Rochester.
Middleton's Evangelical Biography.
Cecil's Life of Newton.
Doddridge's Life of Gardiner.
Memoir of Philip Melville, Esq.
Memoir of Mrs. Newell.
Memoir of Mrs. Graham.
Memoirs of Mr. Halyburton.
Edwards' Life of Brainerd.
Gilpin's Lives of the Reformers.
Innes's Select Christian Biography.
Williams's Diary.
The Life of Martyn.
Life of Mrs. Savage.
Orton's Life of Doddridge.

CLASS IV.

Elementary and Devotional.

Davy's Village Conversations on the Liturgy.
Vivian's Exposition of Catechism.
Walker's Lectures, 2 vol.
Bishop Wilson on Lord's Supper.
Orton's Sacramental Meditations.
Henry's Communicant's Companion.
Hawels's Communicant's Companion.
Ambrose's Looking unto Jesus.
Bennet's Christian Oratory.
Steele's Antidote against Distractions
Jenks's Prayers.
Knight's Family Prayers.
Hervey's Meditations.
Beveridge's Private Thoughts.
Adam's Private Thoughts.
Howe's Blessedness of the Righteous.
Olney Hymns.
Serle's Remembrancer.
Rambach's Meditations.
Vincent's Spirit of Prayer.

CLASS V.

Sermons and Homilies.

Homilies of the Church of England.
Milner's Sermons, 3 vol.
Walker's Christian.
Walker's Christ the Purifier.
Cooper's Sermons, 6 vol.
Burder's Village Sermons.
Peer's Minutiae, 2 vol.

Newton's Messiah, 2 vol.
Doddridge's Sermons to Young.
Beddome's Discourses.
Lavington's Sermons.
Russell's Seven Sermons.
Cennick's Discourses.
Evans's Sermons, 2 vol.

CLASS VI.

Christian Instruction.

Venn's Complete Duty of Man.
Newton's Cardiphonia.
Flavel's Providence.
Flavel's Touchstone of Sincerity.
Flavel's Saint Indeed.
Buck's Religious Experience.
Dickinson's Letters.
Doddridge's Rise and Progress.
Owen on Indwelling Sin.
Owen on Temptation.
Owen on the cxxxth Psalm.
Owen on Communion with God.
Owen on Spiritual Mindedness.
Scougal's Life of God in the Soul.
Baxter's Saints' Rest.
Baxter's Alarm to Unconverted.
Gipps on Regeneration.
Brooks on Assurance.
Bunyan's Barren Fig Tree.
Fletcher's Appeal.
Serle's Christian Husbandry.
Mason's Select Remains.
Alleine's Alarm.
Henry's Pleasantness.
Mead's Almost Christian.
Burkitt's Help and Guide.
Scott's Essays.
Beaufoy's Guide.
Bunyan's Pilgrims' Progress.
Bunyan's Holy War.
Boston's Fourfold State.
Gurnall's Christian Armour.
Hervey's Theron and Aspasio.
Shaw's Immanuel.
Newton's Omicron.
Romaine on Faith.
Bradford's Works (Tract Society.)
Latimer's Works (Tract Society.)
Serle's Horæ Solitariae, 2 vol.
Watson's Divine Contentment.
Witherspoon on Regeneration.

CLASS VII.

Narratives.

Sherwood's Little Henry and Bear.
Sherwood's Infants' Progress.
Richmond's Annals of Poor.
Cheap Repository Tracts, 3 vol.
Sunday School Tracts, 4 vol.
Buck's Anecdotes, 3 vol.

CLASS VIII.

On Affliction.

Sibbes's Bruised Reed.
 Sibbes's Soul's Conflict.
 Baxter's Converse with God.
 Baxter's Dying Thoughts.
 Willison's Afflicted Man's Companion.

Stonehouse's Sick Man's Friend.
 Bunyan's Come and Welcome.
 Grosvenor's Mourner.
 Brookes's Mute Christian.
 Colquhoun on Spiritual Comfort.
 Boston's Crook in the Lot.
 Cecil's Visit to the House of Mourning.

The Religious Tract Society have recently published many works, furnishing valuable books for Religious Circulating Libraries, and give rules with Catalogues of Books.

THE DIFFUSION OF RELIGIOUS TRACTS is a most important means of doing good. The Reformers did much in this way. The Society for promoting Christian Knowledge early adopted this powerful method of spreading religious truth, which has now been taken up by every denomination of Christians. It is of immense importance that the Tracts of the different Societies should contain pure scriptural truth, unmixed either by the *leaven of the Pharisees, or of the Sadducees*. The poor are not likely to be interested by any but those containing the all-cheering and happy tidings of the Gospel of Christ; and such Tracts as abound in scriptural views of the Saviour are most likely not only to be acceptable, but also useful. He is the **GRAND ATTRACTION**, by whom alone fallen sinners can be brought to God (John xii. 32). May he ever be exhibited in all his offices as a Saviour, from both the guilt and the power of sin!

There are numerous collections of Tracts, as those of

1. The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.
 2. The Religious Tract Society.
 3. The Bristol Church of England Tract Society.
- Tracts to be had at Seeleys.
4. The Prayer Book and Homily Society.

5. The Edinburgh Tract Society. Tract to be had at Nisbet's.

6. The Irish Religious Tract and Book Society,

7. The Cottage Tract Society.

8. Watkins's Sunday School Tract Society.

9. The Cheap Repository Tracts.

10. Mrs. Sherwood's Tracts.

11. The Evangelical Rambler.

12. Wesleyan Religious Tracts.

There are also several other collections of Tracts.

The Author finds it impracticable to attempt to give select lists from these, as of most of them he has no personal knowledge. He subjoins, however, 50 with which he is acquainted, as calculated for distribution.

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Homilies of the Church.

1. Exhortation to reading the Scriptures.
2. The Misery of all mankind.
3. The salvation of all mankind.

4. The True and Lively faith.
5. Good Works.
6. Declining from God.
9. Against the Fear of Death.
25. Of the Passion.

[The above are also circulated by the Prayer Book and Homily Society.]

17. Faith and Duty of a Christian, by Basil Woodd.
28. Bishop Blomfield's Manual of Prayers.
31. Collects of the Church.
44. Kenn's Directions for Prayer.
58. Stonehouse's Prayers.

55. Watts's Songs for Children.
64. Woodd's Elementary Questions.
174. Reflections on the Seven Days in the Week.
237. Stonehouse's Admonitions.
242. Woodward's Kind Caution.

Religious Tract Society.

2. Vivian's Dialogues.
26. Consolation under Conviction.
35. Traveller and Yourself.
38. Sixteen Short Sermons.
39. Short Prayers.
45. The Warning Voice.
63. Eternity.
65. Friendly Advice.
66. Sin no Trifle.
72. Christ the only Refuge.
76. The Swearer's Prayer.

88. Friendly Conversations.
100. Visit to the House of Mourning.
108. History of William Kelly.
111. Work of the Holy Spirit.
118. Dairyman's Daughter.
119. Negro Servant.
143. Poor Joseph.
151. Young Cottager.
181. Brazen Serpent.
221. The Traveller's Farewell.
266. The History of Amelia Gale.

Cheap Repository Tracts.

Tom White.
Shepherd of Salisbury Plain.
'Tis All for the Best.

Parley the Porter.
Patient Joe.

The Bristol Church of England Tract Society.

Has a valuable collection, chiefly on points connected with the Established Church, and formed on evangelical principles. There are many good Biographical Tracts, as well as the following,

15. Life of Edward VI.

26. The Churchman on a Sick Bed.

30. Nowell's Shorter Catechism.

46. Address on Public Worship.

47. Address on Private Worship.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE MINISTER'S LIBRARY.

It is an interesting and important work, with reference to extended usefulness in the church, for the Christian minister to gather round him those works which are the lights of past ages, and bring to him the knowledge and experience of the whole church. Mr. Cecil observes, 'Every book really worth a minister's studying, he ought, if possible, to have in his own library.' And clergymen in the Established Church of England are under the promise, made at their ordination, to be diligent in reading the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same.

While many, from want of means, from indolence, and from prejudice, neglect these studies,¹ are not

¹ Massillon observes, on the difficulty of ministers obtaining books: 'Did they love and were they desirous of books, did they feel a real want of them, they would not find it so difficult to acquire them. And besides, are so many books requisite to acquaint a clergyman with the nature of his duty? It is not the number that

some too unwilling to be at the expense of procuring books? Are not others without suitable directions? If a traveller have no information, or such as will lead him astray, when he is to pass through a difficult country, it will probably greatly increase his labour in reaching the end of his journey.

An intelligent Christian minister and a learned man are two different things. To be deeply learned requires an extent of reading, a knowledge of authors, books, and opinions, almost incompatible with the discharge of the duties of the ministry, and of domestic life. Very few are called to give themselves up to learning. But knowledge and intelligence are requisite in all ministers; and here the best books, well digested, are very valuable. A minister, though he may make much use of general knowledge, cannot be deeply versed in human sciences, without neglecting his proper study—theology.

is wanted; those that are indispensable are reduced to a few; the previous requisites are, a love of study; a desire of becoming useful to our parish; a conviction of the necessity of deriving from prayer that knowledge which study does not afford; of being impressed with a desire of salvation, and of applying all the means of advancing in evangelical wisdom, to inspire our flocks with a love of their duty, in order that they may the more easily be induced to practise it; in a word, it is a sincere desire to fulfil our ministry. But you might place the pastors of whom I am speaking in the midst of all the books that have been written since the promulgation of the gospel, and they would discover an aversion, rather than an anxiety, for the perusal of any of them.' He farther observes: 'When our study is neglected, piety declines....so long as you do not find within yourselves a resource for indolence, the diversions of the world will, it is too probable, become essential to your happiness, you will not be able to live without them. In vain you may prescribe to yourselves fixed limits; in vain you may form resolutions of appropriating your time in part to your studies and in part to your amusements; the love of the world will increase every day, and, in proportion as it increases, the love of books will decline, and knowledge, professional knowledge, will cease to be estimable.'

The writer has given a far larger list of books than most ministers can possess, or than, if they possess, they are at all likely wholly to read, and many more than he has himself read. His reasons have been these—It is very convenient to have at hand a full list of useful books, even if we have not the books themselves. Those who have collected a library know that the opportunities of meeting with books are very diversified. Many a book which a student might have obtained at an easy rate, he has passed by, because he was uncertain of its character or use; and he has not afterwards, when he wanted it, been able to obtain it, but at a greatly increased expense and trouble.¹ The object has been to select the best or most accessible books on each subject. The motives for inserting works he has stated in the commencement of Chapter xiv. As to omissions, he would say, many are doubtless omitted from ignorance, some from inadvertence, others because he would not increase the list beyond all bounds, and others as conveying, prominently, principles which he believes to be wholly unscriptural. If the list should appear too long, let what has been remarked be remembered, that a lawyer, a physician, or a philosopher, will readily procure a large library of books respecting their particular studies, and surely the work of the ministry is not less important.

¹ The older divinity books are much more sought after than they used to be, and are much advanced in price. The chief booksellers who sell them, are, Messrs. Howell and Co. Mr. Thorpe, Mr. William and Mr. Richard Baynes, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Boone, Mr. Bohn, Mr. Cochrane, Mr. Dowding, Mr. Darling, and several others, in London; Mr. Strong of Bristol, and Mr. Dash, of Kettering, publish valuable catalogues. Those of Messrs. Rivington and Cochrane, and of Messrs. Ogle and Duncan, published formerly, with the more recent ones of Messrs. Howell and Co. are useful as *standard books of reference*.

If it should be said, as it may most justly, that for the most part the means of clergymen are very inadequate to the purchase of many books, still this will not render a catalogue of the most instructive books useless, as such clergymen may, in many cases, procure the loan of books which they cannot purchase. It is true, also, that several of the following works are not only very dear, but very scarce; if they be valuable, however, this only renders it more desirable that they should be brought into notice, that, if need be, they may be reprinted.

He has endeavoured to give his sentiments of books under these convictions, that opinions have an important influence on practice, that all sentiments must soon undergo another review, and that he has no shadow of wish to claim infallibility for himself. The Judge of quick and dead is indeed at the door, and it is of little moment whether the opinions are approved by men of any class or any denomination; the only thing of real moment is, are they according to the mind of the final Judge.

He has, in the main, adopted the arrangement of the Rev. T. H. Horne, who has prepared a methodically arranged catalogue of the library in Queen's College. This is only one of the six classes into which that library is divided. The other classes are jurisprudence, philosophy, arts and trade, history, and literature.

The use of this arrangement is to find more readily the subject we wish to consider, and the best books on that subject. It is as follows:—

ARRANGEMENT OF THE MINISTER'S LIBRARY.

INTRODUCTION.

1. Directions for the Study of Theology.
2. Treatises on the right of Private Judgment.

Section 1. Natural Religion.

Section 2. Revealed Religion.

I. HOLY SCRIPTURES.

1. Original Texts, Versions, and Polyglots.
2. Harmonies.

II. SACRED PHILOLOGY.

1. Introductions to the Holy Scriptures.
2. Grammars and Lexicons to the Original Languages of the Scriptures.
 1. Hebrew.
 2. Greek.
3. Commentators, Interpreters, and Paraphrasts on the Scriptures.
 1. Treatises on the Interpretation of the Scriptures.
 2. Jewish Commentators.
 3. Christian Commentators.
 1. On the Entire Bible.
 2. On the Old Testament and Detached Books.
 3. On the Apocryphal Books.
 4. On the New Testament and Detached Books.
 5. Critical Observations on Biblical Subjects.
4. Concordances, Dictionaries, Common Place Books.
5. Biblical Antiquities, Chronology, and Geography.

III. ECCLESIASTICAL POLITY, RITES, AND CEREMONIES.

1. Councils of the General, Roman, and Reformed Churches.
2. Discipline and Government of the Church.
3. Liturgies, Rites, and Ceremonies.
 1. General Treatises.
 2. Greek and Roman Church.
 3. Reformed Churches.
 4. Treatises on Prayer and Manuals of Devotion.
 5. *Psalms and Hymns.*

IV. THEOLOGIANS, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

1. **Fathers of the Christian Church.**
 1. Introductory Works to the Fathers.
 2. The Works of the Fathers.
2. **Reformers.**
 1. British Reformers,
 2. Foreign Reformers.
3. **Collective Works of Protestant Divines.**
 1. British Protestant Divines.
 2. Foreign Protestant Divines.

V. SYSTEMATIC DIVINITY.

1. **Doctrinal Divinity.**
 1. **Systems and Elementary Treatises.**
 2. **Treatises on Particular subjects.**
 1. Of God and his Attributes.
 2. On the Person and Offices of Christ Jesus.
 3. On the Person and Offices of the Holy Spirit.
 4. On the Trinity.
 5. On Death.
 6. On the Intermediate state.
 7. On Judgment, Heaven, and Hell.
 8. On Angels.
 9. Treatises on the Five Points.
 10. Original Sin.
 11. Election, Predestination, and Extent of Redemption.
 12. Faith, and Justification.
 13. Sabbath.
 14. Sacraments in general.
 15. On Baptism.—The mode and subjects.
Lay Baptism.
Nature and Efficacy.
 16. On the Lord's Supper.
 3. **Miscellaneous Treatises on Doctrinal Divinity.**
2. **Catechetic Divinity.**
 1. Creeds, Histories, and explanations of them.
 1. The Apostle's Creed.
 2. The Nicene and Athanasian Creeds.
 2. **Catechisms of National Churches.**
 1. Romish Church.
 2. English Church.
Confirmation.
 3. Scotch and Foreign Churches.
 4. **Miscellaneous Catechetical Tracts.**

3. Confessions of Faith of different Churches, and Treatises thereon.

1. The 39 Articles.
2. Confessions of Protestant Dissenters and Foreign Churches.
3. Collections and Harmonies of Confessions.

VI. CASUISTICAL DIVINITY.

VII. POLEMICAL DIVINITY.

1. General Treatises.
2. Treatises on the Truth of the Christian Religion.
 1. Treatises on the Truth of the Christian Religion generally.
 2. Treatises in proof of Christianity against the Jews.
 3. Defences of Christianity against the Mahomedans.
 4. Defences of Natural and Revealed Religion against Atheists and Deists.
 5. Defences of Revealed Religion on the ground of Prophecy, and Treatises respecting its right interpretation.
3. Treatises on the Controversy between Protestants and Romanists.
 1. General Treatises by writers of the Church of Rome.
 2. General Treatises against Popery by Protestant Divines.
4. Treatises on the Arian Controversy.
5. Treatises on the Socinian Controversy.
6. Treatises occasioned by the Controversies between the Church of England and Dissenters.
 1. The Bangorian Controversy.
 2. Subscription to the 39 Articles.
 3. Controversial Treatises on Dissent.
7. Treatises on Heresies.

VIII. PASTORAL THEOLOGY.

1. Treatises on the Pastoral Care.
2. Treatises on the Composition of a Sermon.
3. Episcopal and Archidiaconal Charges and Letters.

IX. HORTATORY THEOLOGY.

1. Homilies.
2. Lectures in Defence of Natural and Revealed Religion.
3. Collections of Sermons by Dissenters.
4. Sermons by English Divines.
5. Sermons by Foreign Divines, translated.

X. PRACTICAL, MORAL, AND SPIRITUAL DIVINITY.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS TREATISES IN DIVINITY.

Section 3. *Historical Divinity, or the History of Religions.*

1. General History of Religions.
2. History and Religious Customs of the Jews.
3. History of the Christian Religion.
 1. General History of the Christian Church.
 1. General Ecclesiastical Historians.
 2. Miscellaneous Collections relative to the General History of the Church.
 2. General History of the Reformation.
 3. Ecclesiastical History of England.
 1. General Ecclesiastical Historians.
 2. Histories during particular periods.
 3. Convocations of the Clergy.
 4. History of Dissenters.
 4. Ecclesiastical History of Scotland.
 5. Ecclesiastical Histories of other Countries.
 6. History of Religious Orders.
 7. History of Religious Societies.
4. Biography.
5. Pagan and Mahomedan Religions.
 1. Pagan Religions.
 2. Mahomedan.

INTRODUCTION.

(1.) *Directions for the Study of Theology.*

LEIGHTON (Abp). *Prælectiones Theologicæ*. 8vo. 1828.

Edited by Professor Scholefield. Mr. Newton called this work of Leighton's 'A Diamond set in Gold,' and said it united the simplicity of the gospel with all the captivating beauties of style and language.

WILKINS (Bp. John). *Ecclesiastes, or a Discourse concerning the Gift of Preaching*. 8vo. 1704. 8th edition.

It contains much valuable information respecting older books of Divinity, as does 'Bishop Barlow's directions for the choice of books. 4to. 1699.'

DODDRIDGE (Dr. P). *A course of Lectures on Pneumatology, Ethics, and Divinity; with Lectures on Preaching*. Vol iv. and v. of his works. 8vo. 1804.

Much may be learned from this learned and devout Writer;—he has many judicious criticisms on different authors; but there is a tone of excessive candour bordering upon Latitudinarianism, especially in giving too great weight to objections; when treating upon the Evidences and Doctrines. His Criticisms on theological writers in his preaching Lectures, not duly respecting Evangelical Doctrine, fail in discrimination. See his Criticisms on Tillotson, Barrow, Atterbury.

WALCHII (Jo. Georgii). *Bibliotheca Theologica Selecta et Patristica*. 5 Vol. 8vo. Jenæ, 1757—70.¹

A vast body of intelligence on books in all classes of Divinity. Bray's *Bibliotheca* was not finished, and is now of little use.

WOTTON (W). *Thoughts concerning a proper method of studying Divinity*. 8vo. 1818, Oxford, by Dr. Cotton.

A comprehensive Tract, with a short account of *learned books*.

BOYLE (Hon. Robert). *The excellency of Theology, compared with Natural Philosophy*. 8vo. 1674.

Boyle's Religious works are striking and original.

ORME. *Bibliotheca Biblica*, a select List of Books on Sacred Literature. 8vo. 1824.

Judicious and discriminating.

RANDOLPH (Bp. John). *Enchiridion Theologicum*, a Manual for the use of Students. 2 Vol. 8vo. Oxford.

(2.) *Treatises on Toleration, or the right of Private Judgment.*

DAVENANT (Bp. John). *An Exhortation to Brotherly Communion betwixt the Protestant Churches*. 12mo. 1641.

A delightful little work on this subject. Baxter, Burroughes, Bishop Stillingfleet, and others wrote with the same views.

LOCKE (John). *Letters on Toleration*. 4to. 1765.

A most complete and satisfactory work on Toleration.

TAYLOR (Bp). *A Discourse on the Liberty of Prophesying*. 4to. 1647.

An important work at the time it was published.

WARBURTON (Bp. W). *Alliance between the Church and State, or the necessity and equity of an Established Religion*. 8vo. 1766.

A Defence of the Establishment, with the Principles of Toleration.

Section X.

NATURAL RELIGION.

It has been usual among later Divines to distinguish natural from revealed religion; arranging the

¹ The following is the most complete *Bibliotheca* published in this country—Bishop Tanner's *Bibliotheca Britannica*, &c. only reaches to the beginning of the seventeenth century.

WATT (Robert) *Bibliotheca Britannica*. 4 Vol. 4to. 1824.

A work of prodigious labour and considerable value.

Bishop Marsh mentions a work in German, by Dr. Noessel, in 1800.

All such works, however useful, show the imperfection of human labour; a few years pass away, and subsequent works render them defective.

more obvious divine truths under natural, and the more difficult and hidden truths under revealed, religion. Some abuse has arisen from this distinction. ‘Revealed religion,’ says Bishop Horsley, ‘stands not upon the ground of any antecedent discoveries of natural reason, and it is highly impolitic to attempt to place it upon any such false foundation.’ In point of fact, through the blinding effect of their own sin, men, without revelation, know so little to practical purpose the truths which come under the usual notions of natural religion, that the apostle describes them as *without God in the world*, *Aθεοι* (Atheists). They are *without excuse*, because His works declare His glory; Divine intercourse with man began at the creation, and God has implanted the conscience of right and wrong in every human mind.

But under natural religion we may consider the works of nature as displaying the glory of God, Psalm xix. 1—6; a display often brought before us, and illustrated in the word of God.

Witsius thus notices this subject. ‘It is not in vain that God has impressed visible excellencies on his works. It is not in vain, that in the conduct of the universe, and the changes of human affairs, he dispenses all things with so constant an uncertainty, and so wise a judgment. It is not in vain that he has so disposed the works of nature, that in them is to be discerned a type of the works of grace and glory, and as it were the rudiments of a better world. But He has purposed that from the attentive consideration of all these, we may learn who and what He himself is; eternal, immense, almighty, supremely wise, the best also and the greatest, sufficient in Himself for his own full

happiness, when he gave life and breath, and all things to all, and finally worthy of our worship and our salvation; One to whom we should give ourselves entirely, and in whose love and enjoyment we should place the highest summit of our happiness.¹

The works of creation, and the providence of God, and the various powers of the human mind, display his glory, and reflect fresh beams of light on divine truth. In this view natural religion is a valuable study, and in this view principally the following books are classified under this head.²

WILKINS (Bp. John). *Principles and Duties of Natural Religion*. 8vo. 1722.

Some good remarks on the several kinds of evidence.

PALEY (William). *Natural Theology*. 8vo. and 12mo.

Many beautiful illustrations of the wisdom and goodness of God in the works of creation.

GISBORNE (Thomas). *Testimony of Natural Theology to Christianity*. 12mo. 1818.

Some valuable illustrations additional to Paley.

DERHAM (W). *Astro and Physico Theology, or Demonstration of God from a Survey of the Heavens, and from the Works of Creation*. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1798.

RAY (J). *Wisdom of God in Creation*. 8vo. 1722.

DICK (Thomas). *Christian Philosopher*. 12mo. 1827.

The Philosophy of Religion. 12mo. 1827.

STURM (C. C). *Reflections*—various editions.

BUTLER (Bishop). *The Analogy of Religion, Natural and Revealed, to the constitution and course of Nature, with an Introductory Essay by the Rev. Daniel Wilson*. 12mo. 1824.

A work of incalculable value, with an instructive introduction.

HAMPDEN (Renn D). *An Essay on the Philosophical Evidence of Christianity, or the credibility obtained to a Scriptural Revelation, from its coincidence with the facts of Nature*. 8vo. 1827.

¹ See his *Miscellanea Sacra*. Vol. ii. p. 854.

² Mr. Jones, of Nayland, was of opinion that neither Porphyry, Celsus, and Lucian, nor all the works of Heathenism ever did so much mischief to Christianity as the admission of the pretended religion of nature has done in the Church of England.

Section II.

REVEALED RELIGION.

I. HOLY SCRIPTURES.

(1.) *Original Texts, Versions, and Polyglots.*

D'ALLEMAND (Juda). *Biblia Hebraica*. 8vo. 1822.

Simons' or Rosenmuller's will be as useful.

BOOTHROYD (B). *Biblia Hebraica*. 1816, 2 Vol. 4to. with notes, and Kennicott's and De Rossi's various readings.

A valuable collection of criticisms from various sources.

VALPY (R). *Vetus Testamentum ex versione Septuaginta*. 8vo. 1819.

There are various other editions, but this is easily procurable and convenient for general use.

BIBLIA SACRA Latina, Vulgatæ Editionis. 4to. 1743.

VATER (J. S). *Novum Testamentum Græcum*, with critical notes and various readings. 1824. 8vo.

A useful and convenient edition. Mills', Griesbach's, or Dr. Knapp's, may supply its place, but are not so comprehensive. Bishop Marsh notices Griesbach as the best edition of the New Testament.

BAGSTER's *Comprehensive Bible*, with references. 4to.

A very convenient Bible, on account of the references, short notes, introductory matter, and indices.

BIBLIA SACRA POLYGIOTTA, by Bishop Walton; comprising the Hebrew, Samaritan, Pentateuch, Chaldee, Septuagint, Vulgate, Arabic, Ethiopic, Persian, Syriac, and other ancient versions, with valuable Prolegomena. 6 Vol. folio. 1657.

The most complete Polyglot hitherto published. Reinecius' or Bagster's may supply its place, where this is too expensive. Castel's *Lexicon* usually accompanies it. 2 Vol. folio. This work renders it unnecessary to mention various other editions of the Scriptures.

(2.) *Harmonies.*

TOWNSHEND (Rev. Geo). *The Old and New Testament arranged in Chronological and Historical Order*. 4 vol. 8vo.

Arranged mainly after Lightfoot's plan, with notes; chiefly useful for critical purposes.

CHEMNITII (M). *Harmonia Quatuor Evangeliorum*, continued by Lyser and Gerhard. 3 vol. folio, 1704.

A very valuable Evangelical Harmony of the Gospels and a Commentary on them.

MACKNIGHT (James). *Harmony of the four Gospels*. 2 vol. 8vo. 1819.

See Dr. Lardner's observations upon the harmony of the resurrection, in vol. 5. of his Works, 4to.

NEWCOME (Abp). *Harmony of the Gospels* (in Greek, folio 1778) in English. 8vo. 1827.

The English furnishes a very convenient book for examining the respective accounts.

GRIESBACH (J. J.). *Synopsis Evangeliorum.* 8vo. 1822. Fourth Edition.

Gives every advantage for comparing the respective accounts of the first three Evangelists in the original Greek, with a display of various readings.

CLARKE (Sam). *A Collection of the promises of Scripture under their proper heads.* Various Editions.

The promises are for the most part well arranged, and this book has been found food to many. But it has one serious fault. They are scripture promises but not in the scripture mode and connection. They are often dissevered from the Christian tempers and duties with which they are associated in the scripture, and in which alone an interest in them is maintained and enjoyed.

CARPENTER (Wm). *Scripture Difficulties.* 8vo. 1828.

II. SACRED PHILOLOGY,

OR THE CRITICISM AND INTERPRETATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

(1.) *Introductions to the Holy Scriptures.*

BENGLIUS (J. A.). *Apparatus Criticus ad Novum Testamentum.* Curanti D. Burki. 4to. 1763.

The criticisms of Bengelius are terse and valuable. This work contains the various readings collected to his time, and a compendium of criticism.

BLACKWALL (A.). *The Sacred Classics illustrated.* 2 vol. 8vo. It is allowed that this work, without establishing the particular aim of the writer, gives light to many passages.

MICHAELIS (J. D.). *Introduction to the New Testament,* by H. Marsh. 6 Vol. 8vo. 1818.

Dr. Randolph (in his Remarks on this work) and Dean Milner (in his Reply to Bishop Marsh) exposed the dangerous speculation about the origin of the Gospels. The work contains much information, but it should be read with caution.

LOWTH. *Lectures on the Sacred Poetry of the Hebrews,* by J. Gregory. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1816.

Many instructive and elegant remarks on the Hebrew language. A delightful work of taste and criticism.

JEBB (Bishop J.). *Sacred Literature,* an application of Bishop Lowth's principles to the Illustration of the New Testament. 8vo. 1820.

A valuable addition to the critical sources of illustration.

MIDDLETON (Bishop T. F.). *The doctrine of the Greek Article,* by Professor Scholefield. 8vo. 1828.

This edition of a valuable work has some additions by one well qualified to make them.

SIMON (Richard). *Histoire Critique du Vieux and du Nouveau Testament.* 3 Vol. 4to. 1682—1689.

Parts of this work are translated into English. It conveys much information.

BOYLE (Hon. R.). *On the Style of the Scriptures.*

Many original and devotional remarks.

LAMOTHE (Charles G.). *Inspiration of New Testament asserted,* and explained. 8vo. 1694.

A valuable book on a difficult subject.

COSINS (John Bp). *A Scholastic History of the Canon of Scripture.* 4to. 1672.

A learned work on the subject.

ALEXANDER (A). *Canon of the Old and New Testament.* 12mo. New York, 1826.

A useful Treatise on the canon.

WILSON (C). *On the Books of the Apocrypha.* 8vo. 1801.

DUPIN (L. E). *A complete History of the Canon.* 2 vol. folio, 1699.

A candid and learned Roman Catholic work.

FRANZII (Wolfgang). *De Interpretatione Scripturæ Sacræ.* 8vo. 1708.

Highly commended by Franck and Glassius.

HOUBIGANTII (C. F). *Notæ Criticæ in universos Veteris Testamenti Libros cum Prolegomena.* 2 vol. 4to. 1777.

Considered as too bold a critic, and by no means to be always followed, but not without use.

GLASSII (S). *Philologia Sacra.* 4to. 1725.

Throws much light on the language and phraseology of the inspired writers and will well repay the study.

GRAY (Bp. R). *Key to the Old Testament and Apocrypha, and PERCY'S Key to the New.* 8vo.

A convenient compendium.

HORNE (T. H). *An Introduction to the Critical Study and Knowledge of the Holy Scripture.* 4 vol. 8vo.

This very valuable compilation is so comprehensive and complete, as quite to supersede many works that would otherwise have been necessary. The religious public are greatly indebted to Mr. Horne for the supply of so important a desideratum in theology; it appears to the author that his commendation of books are sometimes too unqualified.

JONES (Jeremiah). *On the Canon of Scripture.* 3 vol. 8vo. 1798.

The best English work on the canon of the New Testament.

MARSH (Bp). *Lectures on the Criticism and Interpretation of the Bible.* 8vo. 1828. and on the authenticity and credibility of the New Testament, and authority of the Old. Parts 5, 6, 7. 1280-23.

Much information on the topics discussed.—See Mr. Walter's Pamphlets as to the English version: Deficient in evangelical views.

NEWCOME (Abp). *Historical View of Biblical Translations.* 8vo. 1792.

LEWIS (John). *History of the English Translations of the Bible.* 8vo. 1818.

COTTON (Henry). *List of the Editions of the Bible in English.* 8vo. 1821.

These works give the fullest accounts of the points on which they treat.

(2.) *Hebrew and Greek Grammars and Lexicons, &c.*

Hebrew.

SCHROEDERI (N. G). *Institutiones ad Fundamenta Lingue Hebræ.* 8vo. 1824.

Schultens, Robertson's, and Jahn's Grammars, are also in great estimation.

- STUART (Moses).** Hebrew Grammar. Andover, 1823.
LEE (Rev. S). Lectures on the Hebrew Language. 8vo. 1825.
HAMILTON (Geo). General Introduction to the Study of the Hebrew Scriptures. 8vo. 1814.
SIMONIS (J). Lexicon Hebraicum, recensuit J. G. Eichorn. 8vo. 1793.
 A more recent edition has been published by Winer, 8vo. 1828. A very useful Lexicon.

GESENIUS (D. W). A Hebrew Lexicon. 2 vol. 4to. by Chris. Leo. Mr. Gibbs has also published a Lexicon in English founded on Gesenius' Lexicon. In Gesenius there is said to be a tendency to Neologianism; in other respects he is considered one of the best Hebrew scholars of the day.

PARKHURST (J). Hebrew and English Testament. 8vo.
 He was a Hutchinsonian, but his Lexicon contains much valuable matter, as do those of Leigh, Stockius, Robertson, &c.

Greek.

WINER (G. B). Greek Grammar of the New Testament. Translated by Moses Stuart and E. Robinson. 8vo.

PARKHURST (J). Greek and English Lexicon to the New Testament. 8vo. A new edition publishing by J. H. Rose.

Bishop Jebb (after adverting to the defects of this work in its Hutchinsonianism and Etymological niceties) says—Defects easily separable from the excellencies of this able work, and infinitely outweighed by extensive erudition, refined taste, well selected information, and above all, unaffected piety.

SCHLEUSNER (J. F). Novum Lexicon Græco Latinum. 3 vol. 8vo. 1819. Thesaurus Novus Philologico Criticus. 2 vol. 8vo. 1822.

It has been observed of these Lexicons, 'acute philosophy and licentious innovation' are mingled together, but they are useful in the critical study of the language. Wahl's Lexicon is more recent and said to be a superior work. A translation of Wahl has been published by Robinson in America.

BOS (L). Elipses Græcæ. 8vo. 1813. Oxford.

HOOGHEVEN (H). De Particulis Linguæ Græcæ. Glasgow. 1813.

VIGERIUS (Fr). De Idiotismis Græcæ Dictionis. Oxford. 1813. 8vo.

(3.) Commentators, Interpreters, and Paraphrasts on the Scriptures.

Commentaries and Expositions when used as a help, and not relied on as infallible, are so useful to the ministry for reference, that a larger proportion of them will be inserted.

It is from limited knowledge that an opinion is given. Such works are ordinarily profitable for

reference, rather than entire perusal. Nor must they be allowed to set aside the perusal of the simple Scriptures, without comment.

One of the Fathers observes, ‘His comments gave no light unto the text, the text gave light unto his comments.’ This is very often a just description of Commentaries, and humble men like this Father will readily acknowledge it. The Commentator may give us the letter, but the Spirit gives us the meaning. The author has throughout rather inserted practical and experimental than critical, expositions. Full lists of Critical Expositions will be found in Horne’s excellent Introduction and Orme’s Bibliotheca : though sensible of their value, his own taste and his experience of the usefulness of practical Expositions have led him to a fuller insertion of works of that character. He has not, of course, read through the Expositions which he inserts. He has referred to them from time to time in the course of his ministry, and such trials will generally enable a person to judge of the character of the whole work.

Bishop Wilkins justly observes, at the close of his extended list of Commentators :

‘Among all the Commentators it would be too great presumption for any private man to compare them, or say which is best ; since there is scarce any one so well acquainted with all of them as to pass such a censure : and besides, concerning those that are commonly known, there are few that agree in the same judgment, one preferring this, and another that, and therefore it will be safest to give only some general characters of them.

‘Some of the interpreters are more especially eminent for their authority and antiquity, as the comments of the Fathers, Ambrose, Augustine, Bernard, Chrysostom, the Cyrils, Eusebius, Gregory the great, Gregory Nyssen, Jerome, Hilary, Origen, Theodoret, Theophylact, Ecumenius.

' Among the late writers, some are eminent for their orthodox, sound judgment, and proper and useful matter. So the Protestant Commentators in general, as Alsted, Baldwin, Brentius, Bucer, Bullinger, Calvin, Chemnitius, Danaeus, Drusius, Gerard, Hyperius, Junius, Lavater, Luther, Pet. Martyr, Melancthon, Mercer, Moller, Musculus, Pareus, Piscator, Rivet, Rollock, Scultetus, Tarnovius, Zanchius, &c.

' More especially of our English Divines, whose abilities and geniuses (when they apply themselves this way) do for the most part raise them up above the common pitch of other writers; as may appear in the works of Ainsworth, Ames, Bain, Byfield, Cartwright, Davenant, Hammond, Perkins, Sclater, Willett, &c.'

Among various classes of Popish Interpreters, he mentions Brugensis, Ferus, and Jansenius as eminent for solid pious matter in practical things.

In the list of Commentators on particular books the Author has inserted the names of the most distinguished Fathers and Reformers, taken from Bishop Wilkins and Walchius. Such references are useful to those who have their works.

(1.) *Treatises on the Interpretation of Scripture.*

HENDERSON (E). Elements of Biblical Criticism. 12mo. 1827. An Elementary work on Biblical Interpretation, chiefly translated from Ernesti and Morus, by Professor Stuart.

FRANCK (A. U). Guide to the Reading of the Scriptures, by Jaques. 12mo. 1815.—Christ the sum and substance of the Scriptures. 8vo. 1732.

FRANCK's works are full of piety, devotion, and sound information. His Guide well deserves the high commendation Doddridge gives of it. He is eminently judicious and spiritual in his tone of Scripture Criticism,

TURRITINE (J. A). De Sacrae Scripturae Interpretandae methodo. 1728. 12mo.

VANMILDERT (Bp. W). Bampton Lectures. 8vo. 1814.

WHITBY (Daniel). Dissertatio de Scripturarum Interpretatione Secundum Patres. 8vo. 1714.

A remarkable exhibition of the incompetency of the Fathers, to furnish an infallible interpretation of Scripture.

(2) *Jewish Commentators.*

Lightfoot, Pocock, and Dr. Gill have given us the results of their studies among Jewish writers, and the Students for whom this list would be useful need not be directed farther than to them and the London Polyglot. *Philo* and *Josephus* will be subsequently noticed.

(3) *Christian Commentators.*

ON THE ENTIRE BIBLE.

CRITICI SACRI. Ten Vol. folio. 1660—1661. There are 4 subsequent Vols. entitled *Thesaurus Theologico Philologicus*, said to be of less use.

This Collection of Commentaries, chiefly of critical character, and of various merit, may often be had at a very reasonable rate. Those contained in it, need not be mentioned again. The following is an abridgement of it.

POLI (M). *Synopsis Criticorum*, 5 Vol. folio. 1669—1674, 1684. **WOLFIUS** on the New Testament, 5 Vol. 4to. and **Koecher**. 1 Vol. 1766, continue a *Synopsis* to later days.

Pool's *Synopsis* is very valuable. Besides the great advantage of digesting the *Critici Sacri* into one view, it contains later additions, and the unevangelical criticisms of his originals are noticed and refuted by sound and evangelical criticism. The *Critici Sacri* is a mixture without discrimination.

PISCATORIS (J). *Commentarii*. 3 Vol. folio. 1646; with an Analysis, Scholia and Doctrinal Observations.

Many good hints in these Commentaries.

PAREI (D. D). *Opera Exegetica*. 4 Vol. folio. 1647.

Have too much of what is valuable to be omitted in this list.

DIODATI (I). Annotations on the Bible. folio. 1664.

Often has spiritual and evangelical remarks of much value.

CALVINI (J). *Opera Omnia*. 9 Vol. folio.

Contains nearly a complete Commentary on the whole Bible, and that of inestimable value to every minister: seven of the nine volumes are Commentaries. Mr. Allen purposes to publish a Translation of them.

ROSENMULLERI (E. F. C. & J. G). *Scholia in Vetus et Novum Testamentum*. 23 Vol. 8vo.

Useful for critical purposes; but to be read with caution. The work on the New Testament the more sound. Less exceptionable editions of parts of the Old Testament were published in 1824, and 1825.

CALMET (A). *Commentaire Literal sur tous Les Livres*, &c. 9 tom: folio. 1724.

Calmet's own resolution, as expressed in his preface, was to take from the best Commentators, that which appeared to him most just and solid, in order to give a literal exposition. He was a Roman Catholic, and manifests this: there is in this work a collection of materials for explaining the Scriptures.

BISHOPS' BIBLE. folio. 1585; and **GENEVA, OR REFORMERS' Bible**, of various dates.

Many useful notes, pithy, short, and edifying.

HALL (Bp). *Contemplations and Hard Texts*. 4 Vol. 8vo.

Very devotional and useful.

CLARKE (J). Annotations. Folio, 1760.

The notes very short, sometimes only a single sentence, but generally excellent. Dr. Doddridge made it his common-place book.

MAYER (John). Commentary on the whole Bible. 5 Vol. folio, and 1 vol. 4to. 1637—1653.

A *Synopsis* of the best preceding Commentators, with additions of his

own. **JOHN TRAPP** also published Annotations, first separately, and then collectively; 5 Vol. folio, 1662, which contain many useful remarks with much quaint wit.

ASSEMBLY'S Annotations. 2 Vol. folio.

Sometimes furnish valuable remarks, not in other Commentaries.

POOLE (M). Annotations on the Holy Bible. 2 Vol. folio, 1683. Judicious and full. Only the 1st vol. down to Isaiah, inclusive, by Mr. Poole. The remainder by other writers, on his plan.

PATRICK, LOWTH, ARNOLD, WHITBY, LOWMAN, comprise a Commentary on the whole Bible. 1821. 7 Vol. 4to.

Learned and useful, but deficient in evangelical statements.

HENRY (M). Exposition of the Old and New Testament. 6 Vol. 4to. 1826.

Very practical and edifying, lively, sound, and devotional.

GILL (J). Exposition. 9 Vol. 4to. 1809.

Valuable for Rabbinical learning; a variety of meanings suggested; Calvinistic in sentiment.

BENSON (Jos). Holy Bible, with notes. 5 Vol. 4to.

Chiefly selected from preceding Commentators.

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MANTON (Thomas). *A Practical Commentary*. 4to. 1658.

Like Manton's other works, very valuable.

JENKYNs (William). *Exposition*. 2 Vol. 4to. 1652—1654.

Though published nearly at the same time, and with similar views; he and Dr. Manton are both useful.

REVELATION.

Andreas, Arêthas, Ambrose, Augustine, Bede, *Chytræus*.

MEDE (Joseph). *Clavis Apocalyptica*—in his works. foliò. 1672,
There was a translation also by Richard More. 4to. 1643.

The chief guide to modern interpretations of this Prophecy.

NEWTON (Sir Isaac). *Observations on the Apocalypse*. 4to. 1733.

VITRINGA (C). *Anacrysis Apocalypsis*. 4to. 1719.

On the plan of his work on Isaiah. Dean Woodhouse makes much use of it.

WOODHOUSE (J. C). *Annotations on the Apocalypse*. 8vo. 1828.

This is an Abridgement of (but with additions to) his former work, which was a new translation, with notes. It is full of scriptural elucidation, and deserves careful study.

GAUNTLETT (Henry). *An Exposition*. 8vo. 1821.

Very much on the plan of Bishop Newton and Scott—practical and useful.

FABER. (G. S). *The Calendar of Prophecy*. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1828.

Many valuable illustrations of this difficult book will be found in this work.

(5) *Critical Observations and Disquisitions on Biblical Subjects*.

BURDER (Samuel). *Oriental Customs and Literature*. 4 Vol. 8vo.

Many valuable illustrations, gathered from different sources.

EDWARDS (John). Enquiry into Remarkable passages. 8vo. 1694.
Discourse on Authority, Style, and Perfection of Scripture. 3 Vol.
8vo. 1698—1699. Exercitations. 8vo. 1702.
Much acuteness, learning, and piety in these writings.

FARMER (Hugh). Essay on the Demoniacs in the New Testament. 8vo. 1775.

Fell and Worthington took an opposite view to Farmer.

GELL (Robert). Remains, being explanations of select passages of the New Testament. 2 Vol. folio. 1676.

HARMER (Thomas). Observations on divers passages of Scripture. 4 Vol. 8vo. 1816.

Light is thrown on them from Eastern Customs.

JONES (W). On the Figurative Language of the Scripture. 8vo.

Mc EWEN (William) Grace and Truth, or the Types explained. 12mo. 1777.

MATHER (Samuel). The Figures or Types of the New Testament. 4to. 1705.

Full explanations of Types—sometimes fanciful, and acrimonious against the Established Church.

PAXTON'S (G). Illustrations of the Scripture. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1825.

RAPHELI (G). Annotationes Philologicae and Historicae. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1715—1730.

Notes collected from the more ancient Greek Authors, to illustrate the Scriptures.

TOWNLEY (James). Illustrations of Biblical Literature. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1821.

A History of the Bible and its translations and translators. It contains a vast quantity of information, gathered from all quarters; it does not reach lower than the 18th century. The present century would well fill another volume.

VITRINGÆ (C). Observationes Sacrae. 2 Vol. 4to. 1727.

Much of the best kind of Criticism.

WITSII (H). Miscellanea Sacra, Egyptiaca and Meletemata. 4 Vol. 4to. 1703—1739.

A very valuable writer, who will amply repay diligent study.

4. *Concordances, Dictionaries, Common-Place Books.*

TAYLOR (John). Hebrew Concordance. 2 Vol. folio. 1754—1757
The most complete—but it is scarce and expensive. Calasio or Robertson may supply its place, but imperfectly.

NOLDIUS (Charles). Concordance of Particles. 1 Vol. 4to. 1679.
A needful Supplement to Taylor.

TROMMII (Abp). Concordantiæ Græcæ Versionis. 2 Vol. folio. 1718.

SCHMIDII (E). Novi Testament Concordantiæ. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1819.

CRUDEN (A). A complete Concordance to the Scriptures; various editions.

The above Concordances are exceedingly useful to ministers, and the last, or a similar work, indispensable.

CALMET (A). Dictionary of the Bible, by Taylor. 5 Vol. 4to.
The best on general Scriptural subjects.

RAVANELLI (Peter). Bibliotheca Sacra. 3 Vol. fo. 1660—1663.
Full of explanations of Scripture, and Scriptural subjects.

BROWN (John). Dictionary of the Bible. 2 Vol. 8vo.
A very valuable body of information on Divinity.

SCIENTIA BIBLICA. 3 Vol. 8vo. The References to parallel passages in the New Testament, printed at length. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1825.

Crutwell's Concordance of Parallels or Bugster's Scripture Harmony give references through the whole Scriptures.

(5) *Biblical Antiquities, Chronology, and Geography.*

CUMBERLAND (R). An Essay towards recovering the Jewish Weights. 8vo. 1699.

A good Treatise on the subject.

LEWIS (Thomas). Origines Hebrææ. 4 Vol. 8vo. 1724—1725.
An extended compilation.

LOWMAN (Moses). Dissertation on the Civil Government of the Hebrews. 8vo. 1740; and Rationale of the Hebrew Worship. 8vo. 1748.

Lewis and Lowman give much useful information.

OUTRAM (W). De Sacrificiis Libri duo: 4to. 1677.
A valuable defence of the atonement: translated by J. Allen. 8vo. 1817.

JENNING'S (David). Jewish Antiquities. 8vo. 1823.
A valuable treatise on the subject, founded on Godwyn's Moses and Aaron.

SPENCER (J). De Legibus Hebræorum Ritualibus. 2 Vol. folio. 1727.

Written on the ground that the Jewish Laws were borrowed from the Egyptians. He was answered in Witsius's Egyptiaca, and is noticed by Dr. Magee.

SHUCKFORD (Samuel). Sacred and Profane History, connected. 4 Vol. 1808. 8vo.

RUSSEL (M). The Like. 2 Vol. 1827. 8vo.

PRIDEAUX (H). The Old and New Testament, connected. 4 Vol. 8vo. 1729.

These three works take different periods and complete one subject.

USHER (Abp.) The Annals of the World. folio. 1658.

It well corresponds to his Title, and brings the History of the World down to the destruction of Jerusalem. In the Paris edition, in Latin, folio, 1673, are his two Tracts on Chronology, edited by Bishop Barlow.

SPANHEIMI (F). Geographia, Chronologia, et Historia Sacra. folio. 1701.

A valuable treasury of History and Chronology; bringing down sacred history to the Reformation of Luther.

HALES (William). A New Analysis of Chronology. 4 Vol. 4to. 1809—1812.

Vast learning and research; though the system of Chronology adopted has been much questioned.

BEDFORD (A). *The Scripture Chronology demonstrated.* folio. 1730.

Mr. Hales, in the work last mentioned, endeavours to overthrow this demonstration.

RELANDI (H). *Palæstina ex monumentis veteribus illustrata.* 2 Vol. 4to. 1714.

— A most elaborate work on the subject.

WELLS (Edward). *Historical Geography of the Old and New Testament,* various editions.

— Gives much useful information.

HARRIS (T. M). *The Natural History of the Bible.* 8vo. 1824.

A valuable compilation. A work on the same subject has since been published by Mr. Carpenter, entitled

CARPENTER (William). *Scripture Natural History, or a Descriptive Account of the Zoology, Botany, and Geology of the Bible.* 8vo. 1828.

LIGHTFOOT (John). *His works.* 2 Vol. folio. and *Remains.* 8vo. 1700,—reprinted also in 13 vol. 8vo. 1825, with *Remains.*

Immense Jewish learning; his works chiefly throw light on this division of Divinity.

III. ECCLESIASTICAL POLITY, RITES, AND CEREMONIES — OF THE CHURCH.

1. *Councils of the General Roman and Reformed Churches.*

It appears to the Author to be of little value for the minister to go deeply into councils. The Church of England justly asserts, that ‘things ordained by general councils, as necessary to salvation, have neither strength nor authority, unless it may be declared, that they be taken out of holy Scripture.’ Different general councils have made contradictory decrees: How can we then trust them? Summaries of their decrees will be found in Cave and Dupin. Binnius in 9 Vol. folio. 1638, and Labbe and Cossartius, with a supplement by Baluze in 17 Vol. folio. 1671—1683, are said to be the most complete collections of all the Councils; and Spelman, by Wilkins in 4 Vol. folio. 1737, of those of the British Church.

Bishop Barlow in his *Directions* gives information on the books on this subject.

COMBER (Thomas). *Roman Forgeries in the Councils during the First Four Centuries.* 4to. 1689.

Dr. James in his *Treatise of the corruptions, &c.* 8vo. 1688, discloses also fraudulent alterations in the Councils.

LENFANT (James). *The History of the Council of Constance* translated by S. Whately. 2 Vol. 4to.

TRIDENTINI Concilii Canones et Decreta. Various editions.

A very necessary work for reference in controversy with Romanists.

SARPI (Peter Paul). *History of the Council of Trent*, translated by Sir A. Brent. Folio. 1676.

A very important work. Pallavicini wrote on the side of the Romanists, but Paul never left the Roman Church, and his facts remain unimpeached.

CHEMNITII (M). *Examen Concilii Tridentini.* folio. 1578.

A very complete refutation of the unchristian decrees and canons of that Council, as is said to be Heidegger *Tumulus Tridentini Concilii.* 4to. Calvin also wrote an antidote.

BEVEREGIUS (Guil). *Pandectæ Canonum.* 2 Vol. folio. 1672.

A book to be referred to on matters relating to the doctrines and discipline of the Church. It contains the Councils received by the Greek Church. Beveridge had a great attachment to antiquity, and thought the Apostolical Canons were composed near the end of the second century. A much later date is generally assigned to them. Dalleus and Larroque wrote on the subject.

GRIER (Richard). *Epitome of the General Councils of the Church from 325 to 1563.* 8vo. 1828.

Acts and Councils of the Reformed Churches.

DORDRECHT Acta Synodi Nationalis. folio and 4to. 1620.

This should be compared with the following.

DORDRACEANA Acta et Scripta Synodalia Ministrorum Remonstrantium. 4to. 1820.

This is the Remonstrants' account of the Synod, and its and their proceedings.

SCOTT (Thomas). *The Articles of the Synod of Dort.* 8vo. 1818.

Many useful remarks, but commends too unreservedly this history of the Synod.

QUICK (John). *Acts of the National Councils of the French Reformed Churches.* 2 Vol. folio. 1692.

Much curious and interesting information in this work.

2. Discipline and Government of the Church.

SEE WORKS OF LESLIE, OWEN, HALL.

BILSON (Thomas). *The perpetual Government of Christ's Church.* 4to. 1610.

HALL (Archibald). A humble attempt to exhibit a scriptural view of the constitution, order, discipline, and fellowship of the Gospel Church. 8vo. 1795.

Shows the arguments for Presbyterianism. Jamieson's *Sum of Episcopal Controversy* may be read on the same side. The arguments for Independency may be sufficiently seen in the works of Dr. Owen.

BAXTERS (R). Church History of Bishops and their Councils. 4to. 1680.

This was replied to in an anonymous work, 8vo. 1682. Clarkson in 1689, and Maurice in 1700 wrote against and for Diocesan Episcopacy.

HALL (Bishop). Episcopacy by divine right. See his works.

WHITGIFT (Archbishop John). Answer to an Admonition and Defence of the Answer, in a Reply to Thomas Cartwright. 1572. 4to. and 1574. folio.

The words of Cartwright are given and answered. A satisfactory work (with the views of the Reformers) to the main objections against the discipline and rites of the Church.

USHER (Archbishop J). Opuscula duo : one on the Origin of Bishops, the other on Proconsular Asia. 8vo. 1688.

HOOKE (Richard). Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity. Various editions.

An incomparable Defence of the Church of England.

JONES (William). Essay on the Constitution of the Church of Christ. Various editions.

CHALMERS (Thomas). On the use and abuse of Literary and Ecclesiastical Endowments. 8vo. 1827.

KING (Lord Peter). Enquiry into the Constitution of the Primitive Church. 8vo. 1719.

SCLATER (—). Original Draught of the Primitive Church. 8vo. 1727.

These two works seem to exhaust the subject.

WILKS (S. C.). Correlative Claims. 8vo.

Some good hints in favour of the Established Church, and many useful practical reflections.

MILNER (Dean). Reflections on Ecclesiastical Establishments, in his History of the Church of Christ.

Speaks with much power of mind and good sense on a difficult subject.

OVERALL (Bishop John). Convocation Book. 4to. 1690.

POTTER (Bishop John). A Discourse of Church Government. 8vo. 1707.

ROGERS (John). Vindication of the Civil Establishment. 8vo. 1728—and his Discourse of the Visible and Invisible Church of Christ. 8vo. 1738.

SANDERSON (R). Episcopacy not prejudicial to Regal power. 8vo. 1678.

TAYLOR (Bishop). Episcopacy asserted. 4to. 1647. Apology for the Liturgy. 1649.

Bishop Heber says the last is among the best of Bishop Taylor's Polemical Discourses.

WARBURTON (Bishop). The Alliance between Church and State. 8vo. 1736.

BINGHAM (Joseph). Origines Ecclesiasticæ, or the Antiquities of the Christian Church, in folio. 1726—8vo. 1710, &c.

A vast body of information respecting the First Christian Churches.

REFORMATIO LEGUM Ecclesiasticarum. 4to. 1640.

Composed under the superintendence of Cranmer.

It was a noble design, and is well calculated to show us the doctrines and views of the Reformers.

3. *Liturgies, Rites, and Ceremonies.***(1) *General Treatises.***

BENNET (Thomas). A Brief History of the joint use of pre-composed Forms. 8vo. 1708.

COMBER (Thomas). A Scholastical History of Liturgies. Two Parts. 8vo. 1690.

This was in answer to Clarkson's Discourse against Liturgies. 1689.

KING (Bishop W.) The inventions of men in the Worship of God; with Two Admonitions to Dissenters. 12mo. 1694—1696.

The Admonitions are in reply to J. Boyse's Remarks. 8vo. 1694.

(2) *Greek and Roman Church.*

PINKERTON (Robert). Present State of the Greek Church in Russia. 8vo. 1814.

Chiefly a Translation of Platon's excellent Summary of Divinity.

KING (J. G.) Rites and Ceremonies of the Greek Church in Russia. 4to. 1762.

BREVIARIUM ROMANUM, ex decreto Trident. 4 Vol. 12mo. 1782.

THE ROMAN MISSAL for the use of the Laity. 12mo. 1815.

Books that are wanted for reference in discussions with the Romanists.

(3) *Reformed Churches.*

EDWARD THE 6TH'S PRIMER, by H. Walter. 1828.

A valuable collection of Devotions, published by our Reformers.

THE COMMON PRAYER of the Church of England and Ordination Services.

SPARROW (Anthony). A collection of Articles, Injunctions, Canons, &c. 4to. 1684.

A useful collection for reference.

SPARROW (Anthony) Rationale of the Book of Common Prayer. 8vo. 1722.

COMBER (Thomas). A Companion of the Temple. 2 Vol. folio. 1684—1702. Also in 8 Vol. 8vo.

An able and devotional Work of considerable value.

NICHOLLS (W.) Commentary on the Book of Common Prayer. folio. 1712.

SHEPHERD (John). On the Common Prayer. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1828.

BIDDULPH (T. T.) Ecclesiastica. 8vo. 1818.

NELSON (Robert). A Companion for the Festivals and Fasts. Various Editions.

This work once had a most extensive circulation. There is serious religion, but a great want of evangelical principles and unction. He held Bishop Bull's views on justification.

BIDDULPH (T. T.) Essays on the Liturgy. 3 Vol. 8vo.

The above may suffice, though Wheatley, Bishop Mant, and others who have written fully on this subject might be added. Various Tracts on the alteration or revision of the Liturgy, have been published.

SHARP (Thomas). The Rubrics and Canons of the Church of England considered. 1753.

A useful work on the subject.

SCOTCH CONFESSIONS OF FAITH, Directories for Public Worship, &c. 8vo. 1810.

FORM OF PRAYERS in the Church at Geneva. At the end of the French Bible. 4to. 1622.

FORM OF PRAYER used by the English at Geneva, in the 2d Vol. of the Phoenix.

FORMS OF PRAYER used in the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands. 12mo. Amsterdam. 1772.

DUREL (John). A view of the Worship in the Reformed Churches. 4to. 1662.

(4) *Treatises on Prayer and Manuals of Devotion.*

ANDREWS (Bishop). Manual of Devotions. Various Editions. Has much of the true spirit of devotion.

ARNDT'S (John). Garden of Paradise, or Holy Prayers and Exercises. 8vo. 1716.

Written in the spirit of the excellent Arndt.

BENNET'S (Ben.) Christian Oratory. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1811.

A very spiritual and devotional work, that may be read more than once with advantage.

BLOMFIELD (Bishop). Manual of Family Prayers. Family prayers are numerous. Those by Knight, Cotterill, and Swets, are very excellent.

BOGATZKY'S (C. H.) Golden Treasury. Various editions.

JENKS (Benjamin). Prayers and Offices of Devotion. 8vo. 1819. In the true spirit of Evangelical devotion.

KENN'S (Bishop). Manual of Prayers. Various editions. An excellent spirit of devotion.

OWEN (John). Discourse on the work of the Spirit in Prayer. 8vo. 1682.

An excellent Treatise, with some of the peculiarities of his circumstances. He seems scarcely to allow the work of the spirit with forms of prayer.

SHEPPARD (John). On Private Devotion. 12mo. 1826.

TAYLOR (Bishop). The Golden Grove. Various editions.

THORNTON (John) Treatise on Prayer. 12mo.

WATTS (Isaac) A Guide to Prayer. 12mo.

Chiefly to help in extempore prayer.

WILKINS (Bishop). Gift of Prayer. 8vo. 1704.

Usually bound up with his gift of preaching.

(5) *Psalms and Hymns.*

MONTGOMERY (James). *Christian Psalmist*. 12mo. 1826.

WATTS (Isaac). *Psalms and Hymns*. Various editions.

RIPPON'S Collection. Various editions.

OLNEY Hymns. Various Editions.

KELLY'S Hymns. Various Editions.

HARTS (J). Hymns. Various editions.

HERBERT'S Temple and other Poems.

Merrick, Goode, and vast numbers have translated the Psalms with various success, and collections are innumerable.

IV. THEOLOGIANS, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

(1) *Fathers of the Christian Church.*

The early Fathers are not merely the authors of a particular country, but of the whole Christian church, and some knowledge of the Fathers in general is desirable, but ministers ordinarily have not time to peruse their extensive works, and select reading is all that can usually be attained.

1. *Introductory Works to the Fathers of the Christian Church...*

WALCHII (J. G.) *Patristica*. 8vo. 1770.

A full account, as far as regards the first six centuries, of things pertaining to the Fathers and their works.

DAILLE (John) *Treatise on the right use of the Fathers*. 4to. 1675.

An original and valuable work, which had a considerable effect in diminishing the undue authority of the Fathers.

SCRIVENERI (M). *Apologia pro patribus adversus Dallæum*. 4to. 1672.

Bishop Marsh says, every thing which can be said in favour of the Fathers is contained in the following work—Casto Innocentis Ansaldi de authenticis sacrarum scripturarum apud sanctos Patres Lectionibus libri duo. Verona 4to. 1747.

EDWARDS (John). *Patrologia* (in his remains) 8vo. 1731.

Takes the same views as Daille.

WHITBY (Daniel). *Dissertatio de Scripturarum interpretatione*. 8vo. 1714.

Brings forward the conflicting sentiments of the Fathers on passages.

COLLINSON (John). *A Key to the Writings of the Fathers of the First Three Centuries*. 8vo. 1817.

ROUTH (J. M.). *Reliquiæ Sacræ*—fragments of Authors of the Second and Third Century. 4 Vol. 8vo. 1814-18.

SUICERI (J. C.). *Thesaurus Ecclesiasticus*. 2 tom. folio. 1728.
An indispensable work for the illustration of the Greek Fathers.

CLARK (Dr. A.). *Succession of Sacred Literature*. 12mo. 1807.
This book gives information concerning the works of the Fathers of the first three centuries, and his *Bibliographical Miscellany* contains the fullest account of the Translations of the Fathers.

2. *Works of the Fathers.*

There are books of a general kind, which give part of their writings, or much information on their sentiments.

DUPIN (L. E.). *A New History of Ecclesiastical Writers*. 7 Vol. folio, including the 17th Century. 1697—1706.

This is a very comprehensive and candid account. It was abridged in 4 Vol. 12mo. Many of the Works of the Fathers are given in an abridged form.

CAVE (W.). *Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Historia Literaria*. 2 Vol. folio. 1740.

This also is a judicious and comprehensive Work down to the Reformation. See also Cave's *Lives of the Apostles and Fathers*. 3 Vol. folio. 1678—88.

BURTON (Edward). *Testimonies of the ante Nicene Fathers to the Divinity of Christ*. 8vo. 1826.

LARDNER (N.). *His Works*. 5 Vol. 4to. 1815.

A very candid and learned, but Socinian writer. He impartially goes through the principal Fathers, showing their testimony to the Scriptures.

REEVES (W.). *Apologies of the Fathers*. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1709.

He endeavours in the Preface to meet Daille's objections to the Fathers.

ROUS (F.). *Mella Patrum*. 8vo. 1650.

Extracts from the Earlier Fathers.

SCULTETI (Ab.). *Medullæ Theologiæ Patrum*. 4to. 1634.

An Analysis of the Earlier Fathers.

STANHOPE (G.). *Meditations of Augustine*. 8vo. 1708.

Generally agreed not to be the work of Augustine—but it is devotional and edifying.

WAKE'S (Archbishop). *Epistles of the Apostolical Fathers*.

GILL (John). *The Cause of God and Truth*. 2 Vol. 8vo.

In part four of this work Dr. Gill goes through the testimonies of the Fathers before Augustine to give passages that support Calvinistic views.

The principal Fathers whose works it is desirable to have, are Justin Martyr, Irenæus, Cyprian, Origen, Tertullian, Ambrose, Athanasius, Augustine, Chrysostom, Gregory the Great, Gregory Nazianzen, Jerome, Theodorete, Theophylact, Bernard, and

Bradwardine, but a full list may be useful. The Author will therefore give a list chiefly taken from the catalogue of Messrs. Rivington and Cochrane.

As far as he had the means of knowledge, he has given the dates of the later editions; these, though reckoned, and in most cases, really, the best, are ordinarily both scarce and dear. The previous edition (sometimes at one-fifth of the expense) will generally answer most purposes, and have the advantage, in some instances, of being the edition to which the earlier and best divines of our own and other churches have referred. The full account of the different editions, down to 1740, is contained in Cave's *Historia Literaria*.

List of the Principal Fathers of the Church.

1st Century.

Jewish Writers.

Josephus. 2 vol. fo. 1726.
Philo Judeus. 2 vol. fo. 1742.

Christian Writers.

Clemens, 8vo. a Wotton. 1710.
Patres Apostolici a Cotelierio. fo. 1724.

2d Century.

Justyn Martyr. fo. 1742. (Including Athenagoras, Theophilus, Tatian, and Hermias).
Clemens Alexandrinus. 2 vol. fo. 1715.
Irenæi Opera. 2 vol. fo. 1734.

3d Century.

Cypriani Opera. fo. 1726.
Dionysius Alexandrinus. fo. 1796.
Gregorius Thaumaturgus. fo. 1622. (Including Macarius and Basil).
Hippolyti Opera. fo. 1716.
Minucii Felicis Octavius. 8vo. 1709.
Origeni Opera. 4 vol. fo. 1733.
Tertulliani Opera. fo. 1675. (Including Novatian).

4th Century.

Ambrosii Opera. 2 vol. fo. 1686.

Arnobii adversus Gentes. 2 vol. 8vo. 1816.
Athanasii Opera. 3 vol. fo. 1698.
Augustini Opera. 12 vol. fo. 1689.
Basillii Magni Opera. 3 vol. fo. 1721.
Chrysostomi Opera. 18 vol. 1716.
Cyrilli Hierosol. fo. 1720.
Ephraimi Syri Opera. fo. 6 vol. 1743.
Epiphani Opera. 2 vol. fo. 1682.
Eusebii Preparatio et Demonstratio Evangelica. 2 vol. fo. 1628.
Eusebii Socratis Sozomeni, Theodoret, Evagrii, Philostorgii, et Theodori Historiæ. 3 vol. fo. 1720.
Firmicus Julius. 8vo. 1672.
Gregorii Nazianzeni Opera. 2 vol. fo. 1690.
Gregorii Nysseni Opera. 2 vol. fo. 1618.
Hieronymi Opera. 10 vol. fo. 1734.
Hilarii Opera. 2 vol. fo. 1739.
Lactantii Opera. 2 vol. 4to. 1748.
Luciferi Opera. fo. 1778.
Optati Opera. fo. 1700.

5th Century.

Basilius Seleuciensis. fo. 1622.
Cassiani Opera. fo. 1628.
Cyrill: Alexandri. 7 vol. fo. 1638.
Chrysologus Petrus. fo. 1671.
Dionysii Aeropagitæ. 2 vol. fo. 1644.
Isidori Opera. fo. 1632.

catoria. 2 vol. fo. 1678.
1773.
bo. 1690.
pera. 2 vol. 4to. 1782.
fo. 1590.
pera. 8vo. 1669.
everi Opera. 8mo. 1648.
pera. fo. 1633.
i Opera. 5 vol. fo. 1642.
s Lirinensis. 18mo. 1689.

6th Century.

i Opera. 2 vol. fo. 1679.
Joannes. fo. 1633.
8vo. 1629.
Opera. 4to 1694.
mo. 1568.
i Turonensis. fo. 1699.
Magni Opera. 4 vol. fo. 1705.
ispalensis. fo. 1778.
i Gazetus. fo. 1555.

7th Century.

pera. 2 vol. 1755.

8th Century.

fo. 1617.
era. 4 vol. fo. 1688.
ni Joannis Opera. 2 vol. fo.

9th Century.

Opera. 2 vol. 8vo. 1666.

Bertram. 4to. 1672.
Sedulii Annotationes. 4to. 1586.
Hincmari Opera. 2 vol. fo. 1649.
Photii Epistolæ. fo. 1651.
Rabanus Maurus. fo. 1627.

10th Century.

Attonis Opera. fo. 1678.
Eutychius. 4to. 3 vol. 1642, 1659.
Œcumenius. 2 vol. fo. 1631.

11th Century.

Anselmi Opera. 2 vol. fo. 1675.
Brunonis Opera. 2 vol. fo. 1789.
Hildeberti Turonensis. fo. 1708.
Lanfranci Opera. fo. 1648.
Theophylacti Opera. fo. 4 vol. 1754.

12th Century.

Bernardi Opera. 2 vol. fo. 1690.
Euthymii Comment. 2 vol. 8vo. 1792.
Guilberti Opera. fo. 1661.
Hugo de St. Victoire. 3 vol. fo. 1648.
Lombard Pet. fo. 1496.
Petrus Blaesensis. fo. 1667.
Rupertus Tuitensis. 2 vol. fo. 1698.

13th Century.

Aquinatis Summa. fo. 1632.
Bradwardini de causa Dei. fo. 1612.
Grosthead. 4to. 1652.

*of the principal English Translations of the
wers, chiefly taken from Clarke's Bibliographical
cellany.*

, Christian Offices, by Hum-
. 4to. 1637.
us, Orations, by Parker.
vol. 1713.
oras, Apologetics. 8vo. 1714.
ie, City of God. fo. 1620.
ie, Confessions, by Watts.
1681.
ie, Meditations, by Stan-
1745.
i Solitude, by Barksdale.
75.
ssages from. 8vo. 1806.
cclesiastical History. 8vo.
, on the Body and Blood of
. 12mo. 1698.
om, on Compunction, by
r. 8vo. 1728.

Chrysostom, on the Priesthood, by
Bunce. 8vo. 1789.
Cyprian's Works, by Marshall. fo.
1717.
Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History. fo.
1709.
Gregory the Great, Collectanea, vol.
of. 8vo. 1618.
Gregory Nazianzen, Panegyric on
Maccabees, by Collier. 8vo. 1716.
Jerome, Select Epistles of. 4to. 1630.
Jerome, Epistle to Nepotian. 8vo.
1715.
Justin Martyr, Apologies, by Reeves.
8vo. 1716.
Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho.
2 vol. 8vo. 1755.
Justin Martyr, Exhortation to Gen-
tiles, by Mosès. 8vo. 1757.

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| Lactantius , Death of Persecutors, by Dalrymple. 8vo. 1783. | Origen , against Celsus, by Bellamy. 8vo. |
| Macarius , Homilies, by Haywood. 8vo. 1712. | Synesius , Select Poems of, by H. S. Boyd. 8vo. 1814. |
| Macarius , Institutes, by Penn. 12mo. 1816. | Tertullian , Apology, by Reeves. 2 vol. 1716. |
| Minucius Felix , by Halles. | Tertullian , Prescription of Heretics. 8vo. 1722. |
| Nemesius , on the Nature of Man, by Wither. 12mo. 1636. | Wake's Apostolical Epistles. |

WORKS OF THE REFORMERS.

(1) *British Reformers.*

RICHMOND (Legh). Fathers of the English Church. 8 Vol. 8vo. 1807-12.

A very important selection from the valuable writings of the Reformers of our Church. A work on a larger scale under the title of 'the English and Scotch Reformers' is in progress, to extend to 16 Vols. There is another on a smaller scale by the Religious Tract Society. These collections and selections will comprise, when finished, the works in part, or complete, of Bale, Barnes, Becon, Bilney, Borthwick, Bradford, Clement, Frith, Gilby, Lady J. Grey, Hamilton, Hooper, Jewell, Joye, Knox, Lambert, Latimer, Queen C. Parr, Philpot, Ponet, Ridley, Rogers, Sampson, Saunders, Taylor, Tyndal, Wickliffe, and Wishart.

FOX (John). Acts and Monuments. 3 Vol. fo. Various editions from its first publication, to 1684.

An invaluable work illustrative of the character of the Reformation. Several of Foxe's other works, his Treatise on Justification, and his Sermons on Christ crucified, and on Christ triumphant, are excellent.

JEWELL (Bp). His Works. 2 Vol. fo. 1609.

The finest Christian eloquence, deep learning, sound wisdom, and evangelical piety mark the writings of this Reformer.

LATIMER (Hugh). Sermons, with Life by J. Watkins. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1824.

Fine specimens of godly intrepidity, simplicity, and piety.

GODLY LETTERS OF THE MARTYRS. 4to. 1564.

Many of these are given in Foxe. They are admirable letters.

PILKINGTON (Bp). Expositions on Ecclesiastes, Haggai, and Obadiah. 12mo. 1562—1573.

These have many excellent remarks. He wrote other works, but these are all that are in the author's possession. He was Bishop of Durham.

SANDYS (Abp). Sermons. 8vo. New edition by T. D. Whitaker, 1812.

Sound and valuable sermons, showing the doctrines of our Reformers.

ROLLOCK (Robert). A valuable Expository writer of the Scotch Church; his works are numerous.

KNOX (John) History of the Reformation and other pieces. fo. 1732.

The list might be greatly extended by mentioning more rare works. Many excellent works on the lives of the principal Reformers, that give great insight into

their character, will come in another part of our work. Bishop Tanner's *Bibliotheca Britannico Hibernica* is chiefly valuable for the mass of intelligence it contains respecting the writings of our Reformers. It is in folio, 1748.

(2) *Foreign Reformers.*

Speaking of Luther, Melancthon, Bucer, Calvin, and Martyr, Bishop Davenant says, 'All these, though excellent divines, we ought so to esteem as to account them stars, but not deities in our churches, nor do we reverence them as the prophets and apostles inspired by God, but value them as godly men worthily learned and raised up of God for the general good of the church, withall confessing them to be but ordinary ministers and subject to their mistakes.'¹

LUTHERI (M). *Opera Omnia*. 4 Vol. fo. 1564-1583; or 7 Vol. fo. 1550-8.

There are fuller editions including German works, not rendered into Latin.

LUTHERI (M). *Colloquia Mensalia*, or Divine Discourses at the table. Fo. 1652.

Seckendorf refers to the Table Talk as incautiously composed or published, but manifesting the manners and conversation of Luther in private. See Lib. iii. p. 643. The Milners also quote from this work Vol. v. 532. Vol. viii. 398-401. His praise need not be spoken. His Epistles are just republished by Professor De Wette, with additions, at Berlin. 3 vol. 8vo. 1825-1828.

MELANCTHONIS (P). *Opera Omnia*. 4 Vol. fo. 1601.

Melancthon needs not commendation. There have been various volumes of his Epistles.

CALVINI (J). *Opera Omnia*. 9 Vol. fo. 1671.

A minister without this, is without one of the very best Commentaries on the scriptures, and a valuable body of divinity.

ZUINGLIJ (H). *Opera Omnia*. 4 Vol. fo. 1581.

The two last volumes are Commentaries. With some less scriptural views Zuinglius is still a valuable writer.

CECOLAMPADIUS (John).

His works are chiefly Commentaries, and very superior as far as the author has seen them, and has read them.

MARTYR (P).

The same character applies to his writings. Several were translated into English. His common places are very useful.

¹ See page 44, *Exhortation to Brotherly Love.*

BREA (Theo).

As far as the author has seen, his works are full of matter; acute, pious, pithy, and to the point. His tracts were collected in 2 vol. fo. and have gone through several editions. They are chiefly controversial. He is too accurate, if we may say so, in doctrine, and too minute in his distinctions for the largeness of scripture. His confession of faith, and his Testament are very useful.

BULLINGER (H). Decades. 4to. 1584. and *Sermmons on Apocalypse*. 4to. 1573.

Bullinger wrote many expositions—an excellent writer. The Decades were strongly recommended from authority in Elizabeth's time. They are a good body of divinity.

ZANCHI (H). Opera. 3 Vol. fo. 1605.

Many excellent things, with Calvinistic views.

It would be easy to enlarge with the works of Bucer, Musculus, Bullinger, Danæus, Chytræus, Gualter, Lavater, and other great lights of that remarkable æra. Erasmus cannot be considered as one of the Reformers. His works have their value, but he attacks not the strong holds of self-righteousness. See Weismann's view of his character in his *Historia Sacræ*, vol i. 1346—1354.

COLLECTIVE WORKS OF PROTESTANT DIVINES.

British Protestant Divines.

ADAM (Thomas). Works. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1822.

Spiritual, searching, evangelical.

BINNING (Hugh). Works. 4to. 1732.

An old Scotch writer well worth reading.

BOLTON (Robert). Works. 4 Vol. 4to.

An awakening and comforting Puritan writer.

BOYLE (Robert). Theological Works epitomized. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1715.

Many fine turns, original similies, and elevated devotion. The unabridged works are to be preferred when they can be procured.

BARROW (Isaac). Works. 4 Vol. fo. 1686-7.

See remarks in a former chapter; very elaborate and full.

BATES (W). Works. Fo. 1723, or 4 Vol. 8vo. 1815.

Called silver-tongued—has many happy similies.

BAXTER (Richard). Practical Works. Fo. 1707. 4 Vol. Reprinted in 8vo. See remarks in a former chapter.

A truly pious and practical writer, with lively views of eternity.

BEVERIDGE (Bp). Works. 9 Vol. 8vo. by H. Horne.

A very evangelical, practical Bishop, the chief of his works had the great disadvantage of posthumous publication.

- BROOKES (Thomas).** Works. Published at various times.
A popular, lively, and practical writer.
- BURROUGHS (Jer).** Works. Published at various times.
A Puritan writer of much piety, good sense, and evangelical matter.
- BUNYAN (John).** Select Works. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1805-6.
Bunyan is unjustly despised by some; his natural talents, and evangelical principles and piety are admirable. His complete works are scarce.
- CECIL (Rich).** Works. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1827.
Remarkably original; with striking and judicious views. His Remains, eminently useful to ministers, and perhaps one of the most valuable books that has been given to them in modern times.
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A deep, searching, often sublime, and powerful writer.
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One of the Bulwarks against Popery.
- COWPER (Bp. W.)** Works. folio. 1623.
An excellent writer—full of devotion, Christian experience, and consolation.
- DODDRIDGE (P).** Works. 5 Vol. 8vo.
A very valuable and devotional writer, with an excess of candour. His Rise and Progress, and other practical works particularly excellent.
- EDWARDS (Jonathan).** Works. 8 Vol. 8vo. 1817.
A treasure of valuable divinity to every minister.
- ERSKINE (Ralph).** Works. 10 Vol. 1821.
- ERSKINE (Ebenezer).** Works. 2 Vol. 1826.
The two Erskines, Cecil calls the best Scotch Divines, but speaks of them as dry and laboured. He did not at the moment recollect Leighton, Rutherford, Maclaurin, &c. &c.
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- HENRY (Matthew).** Works. 7 Vol. 4to.
Some excellent Treatises besides his Commentary.
- HIBBON (Samuel).** Works. 2 Vol. folio. 1635.
A good old writer.

HOPKINS (Bp). Works. 4 Vol. 8vo. 1809.

They form of themselves a sound body of divinity; with some of the faults of the day, in artificial distinctions and divisions.

HOWE (John). Works. 8 Vol. 8vo. 1822.

A very extraordinary, original, sublime, and splendid writer, but sometimes obscure and heavy. Few writers will more strengthen, enlarge, and edify the Reader's mind.

HURRIER (John). Works. 3 Vol. 12mo.

JACKSON (Thomas). Works. 3 Vol. folio. 1673.

Praised by Merrick, Horne, and Jones.

JONES (William). Theological Works. 6 Vol. 8vo. 1810.

A clear, able, and pious writer, though prejudiced against Calvinism.

LEIGHTON (Abp.) Works, with Life, by J. N. Pearson. 4 Vol. 8vo. 1826.

An incomparable writer, the deepest evangelical devotion, with the best taste. His Life, by Mr. Pearson, is a delightful piece of Biography.

LESLIE (Charles). Theological Works. 2 Vol. folio. 1721.

An acute Controversialist in favour of the Church of England.

MACLAURIN (John). Works. 2 Vol. 12mo. 1819.

A very powerful, evangelical, and holy writer.

MANTON (Thomas). Works. 5 Vol. folio. 3, 4to. and 5, 8vo.

All Manton's Works are worth having, especially those published by himself. He is judicious, and gives the sense fully.

MEDE (Joseph). Works. folio. 1672.

A valuable writer, independent of his Prophetical writings.

MILNER (Joseph). Works. 9 Vol. 8vo.

An invaluable collection of important works for a Student.

NEWTON (John). His Works. 6 Vol. 8vo. or 9 Vol. 12mo.

Very familiar, experimental, holy, and edifying.

OWEN (John). Works. 21. Vol. 8vo.

See remarks in a former chapter.

PALEY'S (W). Works. 6 Vol. 8vo.

A clear and perspicuous writer, whose *Horæ Paulinæ* and *Evidences* are very valuable; but some of his principles in his *Moral Philosophy* unsound.

PERKINS (W). Works. 3 Vol. folio. 1612.

Have been too much undervalued: learned, spiritual, Calvinistic, and practical.

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Valuable for the Commentaries and his life.

PORTEUS (Bp. B). Works. 6 Vol. 8vo. 1811.

He did much good by his mild, kind, and practical spirit.

PRESTON (John). Works. Several Vols. in 4to. 1630—1634, abridged in 12mo. 1658.

A holy, evangelical, and lively writer.

REYNOLDS (Bp. E). Works. folio, and 6 Vol. 8vo.

Remarkably sententious and full of meaning, and sound evangelical doctrine.

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His Treatises on Faith have had great circulation; very evangelical.

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TAYLOR (Bishop). Works. 15 Vol. 8vo. 1822.

A fine rich imagination, with great devotion, but a tone of divinity below that of the Reformers. See page 270.

TAYLOR (Nathaniel). Works. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1698—1703.

Called by Doddridge the Dissenting South.

TILLOTSON'S (Abp.) Works. 3 Vol. folio, or 12 Vol. 8vo.

See the Remarks in a former chapter.

TOPLADY (A. M). Works. 6 Vol. 8vo. 1825.

A strenuous defender of Calvinistic views, but not in the spirit of the gospel; his Historic Defence is full of information, and worth reading: some of his Hymns are beautiful.

TRAIL (Robert). Works. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1810.

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WARBURTON (William). Works. 12 Vol. 8vo. 1811.

See remarks in chapter XI.

WATERLAND (Daniel). Works. 11 Vol. 8vo. 1823.

A learned and able defender of some important points; but little, as far as the Author has seen, of evangelical and devout divinity, or the main principle of the Gospel—salvation by grace.

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Few writers have been more useful, especially in Psalms and Hymns. He fell into some peculiar notions on the Trinity, and was answered by Abraham Taylor, Hurston, and Edwards. If the wise and good Dr. Watts erred, let all take heed of rash speculations on unrevealed things.

WITHERSPOON (John). Works. 9 Vol. 12mo.

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AMESII (Guil). Opera Omnia. 5 Vol. 12mo.

Valuable writings both on practical and controversial subjects.

ARMINI (J). Opera Omnia. 4to. 1629.

There is a Translation by Mr. Nicholls, of which 2 Vol. are published. Some modern readers would be surprized to find how Calvinistic Arminius is. He would certainly have been viewed by them as a Calvinist.

GROTII (H). Opera Omnia. 4 Vol. folio. See page 263.

EPISCOPII (Sim). Opera Omnia. 2 Vol. folio. 1678.

Episcopus and Grotius too, have in the Author's judgment, greatly departed from the spirit of the Reformation : they are useful to give a complete view of the sentiments of the Remonstrants.

JUNII (Francis). Opera Theologica. 2 Vol. folio. 1608.

A peacable and valuable writer, whom Bishop Hall calls "the glory of Leyden—the oracle of Textual and School Divinity—subtle in distinguishing, in argument invincible."

GREIERI (M. D). Opera Omnia. 2 Vol. folio. 1686.

SPANHEIMII (F). Opera. 3 Vol. folio.

DAILLE (Jean). Œuvres. 21 Vol.

Much valuable elucidation of the Scriptures in these works.

WITSII (H). Opera Omnia. 6 Vol. 4to. 1683—1703.

Too systematical in his economy of the covenants, but an admirable writer, of an excellent spirit. All his works are worth having.

FORBESII (J). Opera Omnia. 2 Vol. folio. 1703.

Much learning and piety; a Scotchman by birth; but lived much abroad; his chief work was printed at Amsterdam.

The chief writings of Vitringa, Venema, Lampe, will be noticed under other heads. On later writers the Author is very incompetent to say any thing. Walchius and Brunet will give information to those who wish for it.

V. SYSTEMATIC DIVINITY.

(1) DOCTRINAL DIVINITY.

All the doctrines of the Bible tend to promote godliness, nor can godliness come from other doctrines. Each is needful for its practical and holy use.

It is not enough to make a man a skilful divine to have read the best system of divinity. Great knowledge of the Scriptures, and much experience, will lead to far fuller and riper views than any necessarily limited system can convey.

[1] *Systems of Divinity and Elementary Treatises.*

See Works of Amesius, Calvin, Doddridge, Jon. Edwards, Forbesius, Leighton, Luther, Martyr, Melancthon, Scott, and Witsius.

GREGORY (Olinthus). Letters on Christian Religion. 2 Vol. 12mo. 1822.

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H. Altingius is an excellent writer.

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 An original writer, with some useful distinctions.
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 Useful for criticism, but defective in evangelical sentiment.
- PRIDEAUX (J).** Fasciculus Controversiarum. 4to. 1652.
- GURNEY (J. J).** Essays on Christianity. 8vo. 1827.
 A very valuable summary and defence of evangelical views.
- LEIGH (Edward).** Body of Divinity. fo. 1662.
 Contains much solid matter, in an Evangelical mode of statement. He was considered one of the most learned men of his time, and was a friend of Abp. Usher.
- BINCHII (John).** Mellificium Theologicum. 4to. 1666.
 A valuable work with Arminian views.
- ROBINSON (T).** The Christian System. 3 Vol. 8vo. or 1 Vol. 8vo.
- MASTRICHT (P).** Theoretico-Practica Theologia. 4to. 1724.
 One of the best bodies of divinity—brief, very comprehensive, and clear.
- OWEN (John).** Θεολογούμενα. 4to. 1661.
 Not included in Owen's works, but containing much information on the nature of true Theology.
- USHER (Archbishop).** Body of Divinity. folio. 1670.
 Published without his consent, but very useful.
- FENN (Henry).** Complete Duty of Man. Various Editions.
- WARDEN (John)** A System of Revealed Religion. 2 Vol. 8vo.
 Arranged from the Scriptures—Strutt, Talbot, and others published similar works.
- TURRETINI (F).** Institutio Theologiæ Elencticæ. 4 Vol. 4to. 1701.
 A very valuable discussion of the most important questions in Theology.
- STAPPERI (J. F).** Institutiones Theologiæ Polemicæ. 5 Vol. 8vo. 1743-47.
 Jonathan Edwards speaks well of this. As far as the Author has read, it is a very able defence of truth. It would be easy to add many others, as Markius, Synopsis Purioris Theologiæ, Witsius, Ridgeley, Gill, Hopkins, Watson, Brown, &c. In Cradock's Knowledge and Practice much instruction is condensed.

[2] *Treatises on Particular Subjects.*(1) *Of God and his Attributes.*

Cecil says—‘Out of Christ God is not intelligible, much less amiable. Such men as Clarke and Abernethy talk sublime nonsense.’

Horsley says—‘The safest rule by which a Christian divine may conduct himself in metaphysical researches, or in the use of metaphysical arguments, (researches which I would by no means dissuade, arguments which I would not be thought to undervalue,) the safest rule I take to be this—that he never allow himself to philosophize, or at least to draw conclusions in theology upon philosophical reasonings, without his Bible. In every thing relating to God, to the origin of evil, to a future state, he must divest himself of all the pride of philosophy, and implicitly resign his understanding to the authority of the written word.’

See Charnock, Bates, Owen, Flavel.

POLHILL (Edward). *Speculum, or View of Divine Truths in Jesus Christ.* 4to. 1678.

Much Christian Truth and Devotion. A superior work.

COLE (Elisha). *Discourse of God’s Sovereignty.* 8vo. 1788.

CRANE (Thomas). *A Prospect of Divine Providence.* 8vo. 1672. This is a valuable work, with only the initials of the author in the title page.

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WISHART (William). *Theologia, or Discourses of God delivered in 120 Sermons.* 2 Vol. 8vo. 1787.

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ALSO (Vincent). *Anti-sozzo-Vindication of some great truths opposed by Mr. W. Sherlock.* 8vo. 1675.

Sherlock's Discourse concerning the knowledge of Jesus Christ, tending to Socinian views, and marking the low divinity of the times, produced two valuable replies, the one above by Also, and the other by Edward Polhill, both in 1675. South also published animadversions.

TOMKINS (Martin). *Jesus Christ the Mediator between God and man.* 8vo. 1732.

JONES (T). *The Mediation of Jesus Christ.* 24mo. 1828.

GOODE (W). *Essays on the Names and Titles of Jesus Christ.* 6 Vol. 8vo. 1822.

ROBINSON (Ralph). *Christ is all and in all.* 8vo. 1651. Republished in 1827.—*Christ the perfect pattern, or a Christian's practice.* 8vo. 1658.

WYNPERSE (D. Van de). *Demonstration of the true and eternal Divinity of Christ.* 8vo. 1794.

(3) *On the Person and Offices of the Holy Spirit.*

See Owen, Hurrion, Howe.

FABER (G. S). *Work of the Spirit.* 8vo.

SERLE (Ambrose). *Horæ Solitariae.* Names and titles of the Holy Spirit. 8vo.

A similar work to the one noticed above.

BIDDULPH (T. T). *Lectures on the Holy Spirit.* 8vo.

Many valuable and excellent remarks on the history of the influence of the Spirit.

MORTIMER (Thomas). *Lectures on the Holy Spirit.* 8vo.

Practical and edifying.

HEBER (Bp). *Bampton Lectures on the Holy Ghost as a Comforter.*

Very learned, and not so experimental and devotional as might have been wished. There are beautiful views of the subject combined with some speculative and fanciful notions.

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THORNTON (John). *The fruits of the Spirit.* 18mo. 1828.

A very practical and edifying work.

(4) *Trinity.*

‘He who goes about to speak of the mysterious Trinity, and does it by words and names of man’s invention.....may amuse himself.....and build tabernacles in his head, and talk something, he knows

not what; but the good man that feels the power of the Father, and to whom the Son is become wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption; in whose heart the love of the Spirit of God is shed abroad, to whom God hath communicated the Holy Ghost, the Comforter; this man though he understands nothing of that which is unintelligible, yet he alone truly understands the mysteriousness of the Holy Trinity.'—Bishop Taylor on John vii. 17. Works, Vol. vi. p. 403.

See Owen, and controversies with Arians and Socinians.

HOANE (T. H). The Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity defended. 12mo. 1827.

Like his other writings, comprehensive, and full of information.

JONES (Wm). Catholic Doctrine of the Trinity.

(5) *On Death.*

See Treatises on the Four Last Things by Bates, Bolton, &c.

SHERLOCK (W). A Practical Discourse on Death. 8vo.

DRELINCOURT (Chas). Defence against the fear of Death. 8vo. A devotional work.

(6) *Intermediate State, Resurrection of the Body, Immortality of the Soul.*

See Calvin, Howe, Baxter's Saints Rest, Watts, Goodwin, especially the last, Goodwin, vol. 5. part 3. p. 6—105. Archdeacon Blackburne wrote a History of the Controversy to establish the sleep of the soul. Bishop Law, in an Appendix to the Theory of Religion, seeks also to establish it. He was well answered by Professor Campbell in his Sixth Dissertation.

CAMPBELL (A). On the Intermediate State. Folio.

A learned work tending to Romanism, but with useful suggestions.

DUNCAN (J). The evidence of reason in proof of the Immortality of the Soul. 8vo. 1779.

WADSWORTH (Thomas). The Immortality of the Soul proved and explained. 8vo. 1670.

Contains satisfactory evidences of the intermediate state.

DREW (Samuel). Essays on the Immortality of the Soul. 8vo. 1803.—Essay on the Identity and Resurrection of the Body. 8vo. 1822.

ARNOLD (W.). *A Vindication of the Immortality of the Soul.* 8vo. 1763.

(7) *Judgment, Heaven, and Hell.*

SHERLOCK (W.). *A Practical Discourse on a future judgment.* 8vo. 1693.

Sherlock's practical works are better than his controversial, he wrote also on the happiness of good men, and the punishment of the wicked.

HOBBERY (M.). *An Inquiry into the Scripture Doctrine of the duration of future punishment.* 8vo.

LAWIE (John). *The nature of Hell.* 8vo. 1720.

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A devotional edifying work.

STRONG (Nathan). *The doctrine of Eternal Misery reconcilable with the infinite benevolence of God.* Hartford. 8vo. 1796.

LAMPE (F. A.). *Dissertations on the eternity of Hell torments.* See Erskine's Church History, vol. i. p. 300.—See Baxter, Edwards.

The Universalists have been answered by Edwards, Hopkins, &c.

(8) *Angels.*

See Mede, Dwight.

ARNOLD (Isaac). *The Ministration and Communion with Angels.*

A devotional and edifying work, but sometimes fanciful.

(9) *Treatises on the Five Points agitated between Calvinists and Arminians.*

WHITBY (Daniel). *A Discourse, &c.* 8vo. 1817.

The most able work on the Arminian side.—John Goodwin also wrote on the same points. 4to. 1653.

EDWARDS (John). *Veritas Redux.* 8vo. 1707.

Takes the opposite view to Whitby.—Edwards was a voluminous writer of a controversial spirit, who pointed out and endeavoured to check the departure from reformation principles in his time, but not in the spirit that would commend his sentiments.

GILL (Dr. John). *The Cause of God and Truth.* 2 Vol. 8vo. 1814.

The fullest answer to Whitby.

BATES (Ely). *Observations on some important points in Divinity.* 12mo. 1811.

Chiefly extracted from Baxter.—A middle course.

(10) *Original Sin.*

See Edwards, Fletcher.

WESLEY (John). *The Doctrine of Original Sin according to the Scriptures.* Various editions.

This was a reply to Taylor's Socinian work, as was that of Edwards.

(11) *Election, Predestination, extent of Redemption, &c.*

Bishop Barlow's advice to Mr. Mayo respecting the Arminian points is worth recording. He said, 'Study them, study them, the truth lies on one side, but do not trouble the people with them.' Mayo recommends that private Christians of humble capacities content themselves with Bibles and good elementary and practical books, and leave these polemical discourses to their teachers and more learned readers.

See Bradwardine, Knox, Beza, Amesius, Owen, Du Moulin, Prynne, Toplady, Scott, on one side, and Castellio, Arminius, Episcopius, Limborch, Wesley, Fletcher, Tomline, &c. on the other, see also Baxter, Fuller, Witherspoon.

USHER (Abp). *Gotteschalci Historia*. 4to. 1631.

An account of the Controversies raised on Predestination from the views of *Gotteschalvus*.

USHER (Abp). *Judgment on the extent of Christ's death*. 12mo. 1657.

DAVENANT (John). *Animadversions on Hoard's Treatise*. 8vo. 1641.—*Dissertationes de morte Christi et de Predestinatione*. folio. 1650.

TRUMAN (Joseph). *The great Propitiation*. 12mo. 1672.—*A Discourse of Natural and Moral Impotence*. 12mo. 1675.

An original and able writer; taking much the same views as Baxter.

PLAIFERE (John). *Apello Evangelium*. 12mo. 1652.

On the Arminian side, though guardedly written: reprinted in the *Cambridge Tracts*.

HAMMOND (Henry). *A Pacific Discourse of God's Grace and Decrees*. 8vo. 1660.

Written in a good Spirit on the Arminian side, endeavouring to show that Bishop Sanderson accorded with him.

TOMLINE (Bp). *Refutation of Calvinism*. 8vo. 1811.

Fully answered by Mr. Scott; and also by the following work:

WILLIAMS (Edward). *A Defence of Modern Calvinism*. 8vo. 1812.—*Sovereignty and Equity of the Divine Government*. 8vo.

There are many important remarks in these volumes, whatever opinion may be formed of his particular views. The subject is an abyss that calls rather for submission and admiration, than discovery.

COOPER (William). *Four Sermons on Predestination*. 12mo. 1765.

A candid and practical view of this doctrine.

(12) *Faith and Justification.*

See Baxter, Fuller, Witherspoon, Owen, Edwards, Romaine.

8. **FAYLER (N).** Discourse on Faith. 8vo. 1700.

A valuable book on a difficult subject.

BULLII (G). Harmonia Apostolica et Examen Censuræ. 4to. 1676—1676.

And objectionable work. See observations on this in a former chapter. It was translated into English by Mr. Wilkinson, 1801. Melancthon ably meets, long before hand, Bishop Bull's Arguments. See Scott's History. Vol. 2, p. 119—121.

FULLER (T). Justificatio Paulinæ sine operibus asserta et illustrata. 4to. 1674.

A reply to Bull. Those who wish to see some account of the Controversy will find it in Nelson's Life of Bull; but Nelson approved of Bishop Bull's views, and represents them too favourably.

BARLOW (Bp). Two Letters on Justification. 12mo. 1826.

A very powerful polemical defence of the Doctrine. Archdeacon Browne says, "If the Reader wishes to see this subject treated with a degree of closeness of reasoning and logical accuracy which defies confutation, he will do well to peruse these Letters."

DOWNHAM (Bp). A Treatise of Justification. folio. 1639.

A full reply to the cavils of the Romanists.

ROGERS (John). The Doctrine of Faith. 12mo. 1633.

EDWARDS (J). The Doctrine of Faith and Justification set in a true light. 8vo. 1708.

PLACETTE (Jean). Traite de la Justification. 12mo. 1733.—
Traité de la foi Divine. 4 Vol. 12mo. 1716.

FOLMILL (Edward). Precious Faith, considered in its Nature, Working, and Growth. 12mo. 1675.

LAWRENCE (Matthew). The Use and Practice of Faith. 4to. 1657.

(13) *Sabbath.*

See Owen, Scott, Heylen, l'Estrange.

WELLS (John). The Practical Sabbatarian. 4to. 1668.

A devotional and full work on the subject.

HOLDEN (George). The Christian Sabbath. 8vo. 1825.

(14) *SACRAMENTS IN GENERAL.*

See Waterland, Vossii Theses.

(15) *On Baptism in Particular.*

The mode and subjects.

See Bishop Taylor.

ASSHETON (W). Conference with a Baptist. 12mo.

A short and able Defence of Infant Baptism.

BAXTER (Richard). Plain Proof of Infants' Church Membership. 4to. 1656.

A full discussion of the subject.

GILL (John). On Antipædo Baptism. 8vo. 1753.

There are various Tracts on the subject, by Dr. Gill, &c. Gale and Booth are the principal standard books on the side of the Baptists.

JERRAM (Charles). Conversations on Baptism. 12mo. 1826.

A popular and satisfactory discussion of the subject.

RYLAND (John). Considerations on Baptism.

A candid and able Treatise on the side of the Baptists.

WALL (W). The History of Infant Baptism. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1819.
A comprehensive view of the sentiments of the writers of the first four centuries on this subject.

GALE (John). Reflections on Mr. Wall's History. 8vo. 1711.

Mr. Wall replied to this.

IRVING (Edward). On the Sacrament of Baptism. 12mo. 1827.

Lay Baptism.

BINGHAM (Joseph). History of the Practice of the Church (in his works).

Various Treatises were published on the subject by Brett, Fleetwood and others.

Nature and Efficacy of Baptism.

See Waterland, Doddridge, Witherspoon.

HENRY. (Matthew). A Treatise on Baptism, abridged from the original manuscript by Thomas Robins. 12mo. 1783.

A very useful and practical Work.

BRADFORD (Bp). Discourse concerning Baptismal and Spiritual Regeneration: various editions.

MANT (Bp). Two Tracts on Regeneration and Conversion. 12mo.

An objectionable work.

BIDDULPH (T. T). Baptism, a Seal of the Christian Covenant. 8vo. 1816.

SCOTT (John). An Inquiry into the effects of Baptism, and a Defence of the Inquiry. 8vo. 1817.

These two, in the main, satisfactorily reply to Mant. Various other Tracts were published by Bugg, Cunningham, Laurence, Marsh, Daubeney, D. Wilson.

BUDD (Henry). Infant Baptism, the means of National Reformation. 2nd edition. 12mo. 1828.

A valuable Treatise full of devout, evangelical, and original remarks.

(16) *On the Lord's Supper, its Nature, Efficacy, and on the requisite Preparation.*

See Ridley, Henry, Taylor, Warburton, Waterland.

HOSPINIAMI (R.). *Historia Sacramentaria.* 2 Vol. folio. 1598—1602.

A full account of the Origin and Progress of Roman Catholic superstitions respecting the Sacrament, and of the Controversies, between the Lutherana and the Reformed.

CUDWORTH (Ralph). A Discourse concerning the true notion of the Lord's Supper. Various editions.

Cudworth's notion was adopted by many able writers; but they do not appear to the author to have proved that the supposed view was intended by our Lord.

LAW (William). Demonstration of the Gross Errors of a late book called a Plain Account. 8vo. 1769.

WARREN (Richard). An Answer to a book called the Plain Account. 8vo. 1736-7.

Bishop Hoadley wrote what he called a plain account of the nature and end of this sacrament; it led to much controversy. The above two works, the last in three parts, with an Appendix, sufficiently show the nature of, and answer Bishop Hoadley's work.

EARLE (Jabez) Sacramental Exercises. Two Parts. Various editions.

KNOX (V). Considerations on the nature and effect of the Lord's Supper. 12mo. 1808.

WILSON (Bishop). Introduction to the Lord's Supper. Various editions.

Much that is spiritual and devotional, though a more decidedly evangelical tone is to be desired.

HORNECK (Anthony). Crucified Jesus. 8vo. 1686.

HAWEIS (Thomas). Communicant's Companion. Various editions.

Excellent devotional treatises, as are those of Brown, Belfrage, and Wilson, Scotch writers.

The question of open and free or close communion has been much discussed among the Baptists. Hall's and Kinghorn's pamphlets may be read upon it.

[3] *Miscellaneous Treatises on Doctrinal Divinity.*

BOSTON (Thomas). Human Nature in its Fourfold State. Various editions.

Boston's works in general are evangelical and practical.

STRONG (William). On the Covenants. fo. 1678.

DICKENSON (Jonathan). Familiar Letters on the most important subjects of Divinity. 12mo.

Sensible and judicious.

DEWEAR (Daniel). Moral Philosophy. 2 vol. 8vo.

MACLEOD (Alexander). A View of Inspiration, comprehending the nature and distribution of the spiritual gifts and offices of the Apostolic age.

(2) CATECHETIC DIVINITY.

[1] *Creeeds, Histories and Explanations of them.*

USHER (Archbishop). *De Romanæ Ecclesiæ symbolo Apostolico Diatriba.* 4to. 1647.

NARES (Edward). *Discourses on the Three Creeds.* 8vo. 1819.

(1) *The Apostles' Creed.*

See Hooper, Perkins, Jackson, Witsius.

KING (Sir Peter). *History of the Apostles' Creed.* 8vo. 1702.

PEARSON (Bishop). *An Exposition of the Creed.* Various editions.

An excellent work, containing a body of divinity.

(2) *The Nicene and Athanasian Creeds.*

See Waterland, Horberry, Bull.

DODWELL (W.). *On the Athanasian Creed.* 12mo. 1802.

[2] *Catechisms of National Churches.*

(1) *Romish Church.*

CATHECHISMUS ex decreto Concilii TRIDENTINI ad Parochos. Various editions. A Translation was published. 8vo. 1687.

An Abridgment of Christian Doctrine, with Proofs. Various editions.

(2) *English Church.*

See Beveridge, Waterland, Fathers of the English Church.

NOWELLI (A.). *Christianæ Pietatis Prima Institutio.* 12mo. 1687. And EDWARD THE SIXTH'S CATECHISM.

Two admirable Catechisms in the spirit of the Reformation.

NICHOLSON (B. W.). *Exposition of the Church Catechism.* 4to. 1678.

A valuable exposition.

WALKER (Samuel). *Lectures on.* 2 vol. 8vo. 1810.

A very practical and holy work.

VIVIAN (Thomas). *An Exposition of the Church Catechism.* 12mo. 1770.

One of the best explanations of the Church Catechism—lively, evangelical, and simple.

HOLE (Matthew). *A Practical Exposition of the Church Catechism.* 8vo. 1715.

There are others by Kenn, Wake, Lewis, James Stillingfleet, the Bristol Tract Society, Basil Woodd, &c.

Confirmation.

See Tracts of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge.

WILSON (Daniel). On Confirmation. 12mo.

WOODD (Basil). On Confirmation. 12mo.

(3) *Scotch and Foreign Churches.*

See Luther, Melancthon.

ASSEMBLY'S CATECHISMS, with Directory and Confessions of Faith. 12mo. Various editions.

BROWN (John). Explication of the Assembly's Catechism. 12mo. 1812.

Several Bodies of Divinity are founded on the Assembly's Catechism, as Watson, Ridgely.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM. 12mo. Various editions.

There are many excellent Commentaries on this, especially by H. Altingius, and Ursinus. A translation of it has lately been published by the Rev. Mr. Russell of Oxford.

(4) *Miscellaneous Catechetical Tracts.*

See Barrow, Hopkins, Hall, Hieron, Usher, Wall.

LLOYD (Bishop). Formularies of Faith, set forth by authority, in the reign of Henry the Eighth. 8vo. 1825.

A very useful publication, enabling students in general to read documents which before were almost unattainable. The Primer should have been included; and Cranmer's Annotations on the King's Book would have been a valuable addition.

ARROWSMITH (John). Chain of Principles. 4to. 1659.

This and his Tacita Sacra are valuable Treatises.

GASTRELL (Bishop). The Christian Institutes. Various editions.

WILSON (W.) Collectanea Theologica. 12mo. 1816.

A valuable little Manual of Divinity.

[3] *Confessions of Faith of different Churches, and Treatises thereon.*

(1) *The Thirty-Nine Articles.*

See Beveridge.

ROGERS (Thomas). Analysis of the Thirty-Nine Articles. 4to. Various editions. Preface dated 1607.

Said to be published by authority—many excellent things in it.

ELLIS (John). Articulorum Defensio, his accedunt Articuli Lambethani. 12mo.

BURNET (Bishop). Exposition of the Thirty-Nine Articles. Various Editions.

Much information, and candour perhaps pursued to a blameable excess. See observations, in Chapter xl. as to Burnet's School of Divinity.

HERVEY (Thomas). Elementa Christiana. 12mo. 1791.

An Evangelical Exposition of the Articles.

See also the Religion of the Reformation, 12mo. Seeley; and William Wilson on the Thirty-Nine Articles.

(3) *Confessions of Faith of Protestant Dissenters and Foreign Churches, with Treatises in defence of their views.*

See Assembly's Confession.

BARCLAY (Robert). *Apology for the true Christian Doctrine.* 8vo. Various Editions.

This was replied to by Keith. 8vo. 1702.

SAVOY CONFESSION OF FAITH. Various Editions.

Agreed upon by the Independents in 1658.

GURNEY'S (J. J). *Religious Peculiarities of the Society of Friends.* 8vo. 1824.

The best defence of the Quakers : it was ably met in the *British Review*.

PFAFFII (C. M.) *Ecclesiæ Evangelicæ Libri Symbolici.* 1730.

The book of Concord of the Lutheran Church led to much controversy. See Hospinian's *Concordia Discors* ; and Hutter's *Concordia Concors*.

SPANGENBERG (A. G.) *Exposition of Christian Doctrine* ; translated by B. La Trobe. 8vo. 1796.

(3) *Collections and Harmonies of Confessions.*

CORPUS ET SYNTAGMA CONFESSIONUM FIDEI. 4to. 1612.

A very valuable collection of the Confessions, with numerous testimonies from the Fathers in support of them. A smaller collection was published at the Clarendon Press with the Trent Confession of Faith, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Dort Canons.

HARMONY OF THE CONFESSIONS. 8vo. 1586.—4to. 1643.

A very convenient work for reference, and of great use to show the sentiments of the Reformers. Horsey says—' I recommend the Confession of Faith of the Church of Saxony, with the elucidations on particular points to be found in the works of P. Melancthon.'

VI. CASUISTICAL DIVINITY.

See Amesius, Baxter, Hall, Taylor, Morning Exercises.

PLACETTE (Jean). *Treatise on Conscience.*

SANDERSON (Bishop R.) *The obligation of Oaths, and the nature and obligation of Conscience* ; translated by J. Lewis, in 3 Vol. 8vo. 1722.

SANDERSON (Bishop R.) *Nine Cases of Conscience.* 12mo. 1678.

Bishop Sanderson was celebrated as a casuist.

PIKE AND HAYWARD. *Cases of Conscience answered.* 8vo. 1817.

BAXTER (R). *Christian Directory.*

Contains many useful directions on cases of conscience.

HAMILTON (William) *The Mourner in Zion comforted.* 12mo. Many cases of a distressed conscience ably met.

PHILIP (Robert). *Christian Experience, or a guide to the perplexed.* 12mo. 1828.

VII. POLEMICAL DIVINITY.

[1] *General Treatises.*

EDWARDS (John). A Discourse concerning Truth and Error. 8vo.

SPANHEIM (P. F). *Controversiarum de Religione cum Dissidentibus Hodie Christianis Prolixe et cum Judeis Elenchus Historico Theologicus.*

This work and Hornbeck's *Summa Controversiarum* will furnish much general information on controverted subjects.

WITSII (H). *Irenicæ Animadversiones.* 12mo.

A beautiful specimen of Christian Controversy, on the most important points of divinity, conducted in a spirit of love, and establishing scriptural conclusions.

TUCKNEY (A.) AND WHICHCOT (BEN). *Letters on the use of reason.* 1753.

These are appended to Whichcot's *Aphorisms*, and throw much light on the turn in divinity made at the time when they were written.

BAXTER (Richard). *Catholic Theology.* folio.

[2] *Treatises on the Truth of the Christian Religion.*

See Lardner, Owen, Paley, Stillingfleet, Warburton.

(1) *Treatises on the truth of Christianity generally.*

FABRICII (J. A.) *Delectus Argumentorum.* 4to. 1725.

A comprehensive view of the Writers on the evidences.

HORNBECKII (J). *Summa Controversiarum Religionis.* 12mo. 1651

ABBADIE (J). *Vindication of the Truth of the Christian Religion.* 8vo. 1694.

HALYBURTON (Thomas). *Natural Religion insufficient.* 4to. 1714.

BAXTER (Richard). *Reasons of the Christian Religion.* 4to. 1667.

WILSON (Daniel). *Lectures on the Evidences of the Christian Religion.* Vol. I. 8vo. 1828.

Much valuable information; some original remarks on Inspiration.

CHALMERS (Thomas). *The Evidence of the Christian Revelation.* 8vo. 1817.

FINDLAY (Robert). *Vindication of the Sacred Books.* 8vo. 1770.

He answers Voltaire.

DITTON (H). *A Discourse on the Resurrection of Christ.* 8vo. 1727.

See also West's *Observations.* 8vo. 1747.

MONTHLY LECTURES on some of the principal Evidences of Revelation. 8vo. 1827.

These are able sermons by some of the leading ministers among the Independents.

BLUNT (J. J). *The veracity of the Gospels and Acts argued from undesigned coincidences.* 8vo. 1828.

On the plan of Paley's *Horæ Paulinæ*, and very useful.

NONNETTE (L. Abbé). *Erreurs de Voltaire.* 3 Vol.

LETTRES DE QUELQUES JUIFS. 3 tom. 12mo.

Said to be able replies to Voltaire.

BOGUE (David). *Essay on the Divine Authority of the New Testament.* 12mo.

FRANKS (James Clark) *Hulsean Lectures on the Evidences.* 2 Vol. 8vo. 1821-3.

FABER (G. S). *Horæ Mosaicæ.* 2 Vol. 8vo. 1818.—*Difficulties of Infidelity.* 8vo. 1824.

Faber's Works are full of research and valuable matter; he is an original and pious writer.

PASCAL (B). *Thoughts on Religion.* 8vo. Various editions. Much depth of thought and piety.

FRAYSINOUS (T). *Defense du Christianisme.* 4 Vol. 12mo. 1825.

BONNETT (Charles). *Inquiries.* 8vo.

A satisfactory Defence of Christianity, particularly of the miracles.

SCOTT (John). *Essay on the internal Evidences.* 8vo. 1803.

SUMNER (Bishop B). *Evidences of Christianity.* 8vo. 1824.

NEWCOME (Archbishop). *Observations on our Lord's Conduct.* Many good remarks. Jenkins, Leland, Conybeare, Grotius, Huettius, Boyle's Lecture Sermons, and various other writers might be added.

(2) *Treatises in proof of Christianity against the Jews.*

See Justin Martyr's Dialogue with Trypho, Leslie.

HOORNBECK (J). *Pro convincendis et convertendis Judæis.* 4to. 1655.

KIDDER (Bp). *Demonstration of the Messiah.* folio. 1726.

Valuable information on the Controversy with Jews in a serious spirit.

SCOTT (Thomas.) *Answer to Crool.* See his Works.

(3) *Defence of Christianity against Mahomedans.*

See Grotius.

PRIDEAUX (H). *Nature of Imposture in the Life of Mahomet.* 8vo.

LEE (Professor S). *Controversial Tracts on Christianity and Mohammedanism,* by the late Rev. H. Martyn. 8vo. 1824.

Places the controversy in many new lights.

WHITE (Joseph). *Bampton Lectures, a Comparison of Mahomedanism and Christianity.* 8vo.

(4) Defences of Natural and Revealed Religion against Atheists and Deists.

See *Enchiridion Theologicum*, Lardner, Waterland, Fuller, Lealie, Scott, Stillingfleet.

LELAND (John). *A View of the Deistical Writers*. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1756.

An able champion of the Christian faith.

BUTLER (Bp). *Analogy of Religion, Natural and Revealed*. 12mo. 1823, with Introductory Remarks by the Rev. D. Wilson.

DELANY (Patrick). *Revelation examined with candour*. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1732—63.

ELLIS (John). *The knowledge of Divine things from Revelation, not from Nature*. 8vo. 1811.

A valuable Treatise, with much new and original thinking.

LAW (Bp. E). *Considerations on the Theory of Religion*. 8vo. 1759.

In some respects an objectionable work, and to be read with caution. He maintains the sleep of the soul. It led to much fruitless discussion. Campbell's Sixth Dissertation, Part II. ably answers Law.—J. Steffe published Seven Letters, in 1758, against Bishop Law's views.

LELAND (Thomas). *The Advantage and Necessity of the Christian Revelation*. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1819.

A work full of information, as to the state of religion among the Heathen. Leland's other works in defence of religion are useful.

LOWTH (Bp). *A Vindication of the Divine Authority and Inspiration of the Bible*: various editions.

This was in answer to Le Clerc.

CAMPBELL (George). *A Dissertation on Miracles with Sermons and tracts*. 8vo.

An able answer to Hume's Essay on Miracles.

DOUGLAS (Bp). *The Criterion of Miracles*. 8vo. 1574.

Points out the false pretensions of Papists and Pagans.

CONYBEARE (Bp). *A Defence of Revealed Religion*. 8vo. 1781.

This was written in reply to Tindal's attack.

SHERLOCK (Bp). *The Trial of the Witnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus*: various editions.

An able work on this evidence of Scripture.

BERKELEY (Bp). *The Minute Philosopher*: various editions.

A pleasing and satisfactory Defence of Religion.

FARMER (Hugh). *A Dissertation on the Miracles*. 8vo. 1771.

(5) Defences of Revealed Religion, on the ground of Prophecy, and Treatises respecting its right interpretation.

See *Expositions of the Prophets, and of Daniel, and the Revelation*.

SHERLOCK (Thomas). *Discourses on the Use and Intent of Prophecy*. 8vo. 1755.

Has many good hints.

HURD (Bp). Introduction to the Study of the Prophecies.

A judicious outline, on the plan of Mede.

DAVISON (John). Discourses on Prophecy. 8vo. 2nd edition.

Many useful remarks in this work, with much deep, serious, and original thinking.

APTHORP (East). Discourses on Prophecy. 8vo. 1786.

A learned work, with many illustrations of Scripture.

FABER (G. S).

His works in general have thrown much light on Prophecy. His last work is 'The Sacred Calendar of Prophecy,' 3 Vol. 8vo. and is worthy of careful study.

The modern works on the subject are very numerous, and it is one that justly claims consideration, reflection, modesty, humility, and patient waiting.—The chief writers are Cunningham, Frere, Irving, Fry, Brown: they should be read with caution. Hamilton has written a severe Critique upon them.

COOPER (Edward). The Crisis. 12mo. 1826.

An attempt to shew from Prophecy, illustrated from the signs of the times, the prospects and duties of the Church of Christ. A practical and edifying work, though serious doubts may be entertained of the justness of the interpretation of the particular Prophecy.

KEITH (A). Evidence of the Truth of the Christian Religion, derived from the literal fulfilment of Prophecy. 12mo. 1828.

A very pleasing, satisfactory, and able work, calculated to do much good.

[3] *Treatises on the Controversy between Protestants and Romanists.*

(1) *General Treatises, by Writers of the Church of Rome.*

BELLARMINI (Robert). Disputationes de Controversiis Adversus Hæreticos. 4 Vol. folio. 1608.

The most learned and subtil of the Romanists. The answers are very numerous. The Author has been much pleased with Amesius's.

BOSSUET (Bp). Exposition of the Catholic Faith: various editions.

Almost universally received by the Romanists. Wake replied to it.

BOSSUET (Bp). The History of the Variations of the Protestant Churches. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1742.

GOTHERS (—). Papist misrepresented and represented. 4to. 1685.

Replied to by Stillingfleet, Sherlock, &c.

GARDEN OF THE SOUL.

The most popular Prayer Book of the English Roman Catholics. There are various small books largely circulated among Roman Catholics.¹

MILNER (J). End of Religious Controversy. 8vo. 1824.—And Letters to a Prebendary.

¹ Such as, Grounds of the Catholic Doctrine; Gallitzin's Defence of Catholic Principles; Duke of Brunswick's Fifty Reasons for abjuring Lutheranism; Butler's Three Catechisms; Protestant's Trial by the Written Word; Devotions on the Sacred Heart; Treatise on the Scapular.

DE LA HOGUE (—). *De Ecclesia Christi*. 1815.

One of the class books at Maynooth.

CHALLONER (Dr.). *Grounds of the Old Religion*. 1808.

FLETCHER (Dr. John). *Comparative View of the Grounds of the Catholic and Protestant Churches*. 8vo. 1826.—See also his *Reflections, &c. and Defence*.

THE CATECHISM OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE. 18mo. 1819.

ABBREJEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE. 18mo.

BUTLER (C.). *Historical Memoirs of the English, Scotch, and Irish Roman Catholics*. 4 Vol. 8vo. 1826.—*Historical and Literary Account of the Formularies and Confessions*. 8vo.—*Book of the Roman Catholic Church, and Vindication*. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1824—1826.

Mr. Butler is a leading advocate of modern Roman Catholics.

WARD (Thomas). *Errata of the Protestant Bible*. 4to. 1688.

DOUAY BIBLE, with Notes. 8vo. 1825.

The notes are very brief, and many that had been inserted in a former edition are omitted.

Stapleton, 4 Vol. folio, Lingard, and various other Romanist writers, might be mentioned. Whitaker replied to Stapleton.

(2) *General Treatises against Popery by Protestant Divines.*

See Fulke, Hall, Leslie, Owen, Perkins, Stillingfleet, Taylor, Jewell, Barrow, Tillotson, Cranmer.

CHAMIERI. (D). *Panstratiæ Catholicæ*. 5 vol. fo. 1626.

An Answer to Bellarmine's voluminous work.

GIBSON (Bishop E.). *Preservative against Popery*. 3 Vol. fo. 1738.

A valuable collection of Tracts against Popery, chiefly on rational and argumentative grounds.

CHILLINGWORTH (W). *The Religion of Protestants a safe way to salvation*. fo. 1704.

FASER (G. S.). *The difficulties of Romanism*. 8vo. 1826. and Supplement. 1828.

GEDDES (M). *Miscellaneous Tracts*. 3 Vol. 8vo.

USHER (Archbishop). *An Answer to a Challenge made by a Jesuit*. 4to. 1686.

This edition contains the account of the religion of the ancient Irish.

USHER (Archbishop). *Historia Dogmatica de Scripturis*. 4to. 1690.

He shows himself fully competent to meet the Romanists in all their subtleties.

BEDDLE (B). *Letters to Wadesworth; at the end of his Life*. 8vo.

WHITE (Blanco). *Practical and Internal Evidences against Roman Catholicism*. 8vo.

WILLETT (Andrew). *Synopsis Papismi*. fo. 1600.

CRAIG (Robert). *Refutation of Popery*. 2 Vol. 8vo.

PLACETTE (Jean). *Incurable Scepticism of the Church of Rome*. 4to. 1668.

BULL (Bishop). *Corruptions of the Church of Rome*.

BASNAGE (M). *Histoire de la Religion des Eglises Reformées*. 2 Tom. 1690.

An Answer to Bossuet's History of Variations.

GRIER (Richard). *Answer to Milner's End of Controversy, with Defence*. 2 Vol. 1821—1825.—*Answer to Ward's Errata*. 4to. 1812.

SOUTHEY (Robert). *Book of the Church; and his Vindiciæ Ecclesiastica Anglicanæ*. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1824.

PHILPOTS (Dr). *Letters to C. Butler, Esq. on the Theological Parts of the Roman Catholic Church*. 8vo. 1825.

TOWNSEND (George). *Accusations of History against the Church of Rome*. 8vo. 1825.

RAINOLDES (John) and John Hart. *The sum of the Conference between them*. 4to. 1609.

BILSON (Thomas). *The true difference between Christian Subjection and Unchristian Rebellion*. 4to. 1585.

Against the political principles of the Papists.

GAVIN (). *The Protestant; a series of Essays on the principal points of controversy*. 4 Vol. 8vo. 1825.

Much information is contained in these Essays, but without order.

BIRKBECK (Simon). *The Protestant's Evidence; showing, that for 1500 years, Guides of God's Church have taught as the Church of England now does*. fo. 1567.

A valuable collection of evidence from the Fathers. The first edition is in 4to. the second is corrected and much enlarged.

PASCAL (B). *Provincial Letters*. Various editions.

A complete exposure, with the finest wit, of the principles of the Jesuits.

WHITE (John). *His Works*. fo. 1724. Consisting of the way to the true Church, and its Defence; the Orthodox Faith; and the Reply to the Jesuit Fisher, by J. White.

Much information on the principles of Popery.

RILAND (John). *Antichrist; Papal, Protestant, and Infidel*. 12mo. 1828.

Many other books might be added, as Claude's Defence; Fulke's Treatises; History of Popery; History of Jesuits; the volume of *Moral Exercises*; the Sermons preached at Tavistock Chapel, in 1827 and 1828.

[4] *The Arian Controversy.*

It is of immense moment that we should believe that Christ is both God and man, for all the hopes and

glories of Christianity are connected with it, but we may soon be lost in attempting to unfold a mystery like this. The advice of Gregory Nazianzen to Christians in general, is good, 'Contemplate on divine things, but stay still in the terms. Speak the phrases and language of the Spirit, and if it be possible nothing else. Do not thou curiously pry through those narrow clefts into the nature of the Father, the essence of the only-begotten Son, the glory of the Holy Ghost, and one God in three persons. Use the words accustomed; the reason of them belongs to those that are wiser to inquire. Let it satisfy thee that thou hast the foundation, and let alone to artificers to build on them.'

See Waterland, Jones, Bull, Leslie.

WHITAKER (John). The History of Arianism disclosed. 8vo. 1791.

CLARKE (Sam). The Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity. 8vo. 1712.

A work which labours to lower the divine glory of the Redeemer. It was ably answered by Waterland's various works. The answers were very numerous: Edwards, Wells, Gastrell, Knight, Mayo, Bennet, Pyke, &c. wrote against it, and Whitby, Jackson, and others for Clarke; Jones, and Waterland will furnish a sufficient reply.

A similar controversy arose on the publications of Mr. Whiston, 'Primitive Christianity Revived,' with an Historical Preface. 5 Vol. 8vo. He was replied to by Allix, Maittaire, Knight, Hancock, Grabe, Turner, Berriman, and Welchman.

There was a like controversy between the Dissenters from the Church of England occasioned by the writings of Emlyn and Pierce. Leslie was engaged in this controversy.

The Essay on the Spirit (which Mr. Horne observes, is commonly but erroneously ascribed to Bishop Clayton) occasioned several Publications. Mr. Jones's and Dr. Randolph's Answers are worth reading.

[5] *The Socinian Controversy.*

See Leslie, Stillingfleet, Jones, Fuller, Turretine. Socinus's Works were published in 2 Vols. fo. 1656. He died in 1604. Belsham, Lindsey, Priestley, Yates, are the chief modern writers in this country. The Racovian Catechism contains the principles of Socinianism.

GRORIUS (H). Defensio Fidei Catholicæ de Satisfactione Christi. Various editions.



THE
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1880

Controversial Treatises on Dissent from the Church of England.

r, Whitgift, Stillingfleet, Baxter, Owen, Bp. King, Jones.

SOLAR ARMED. 2 Vol. 8vo.

URCHMAN ARMED. 3 Vol. 8vo.

s (William). *Defence of the Church of England*.
itions.

(James). *Vindication of the Dissenters*. 8vo. 1717.
ublished several other Tracts. Towgood's *Dissent from the*
ngland fully justified, and Conder on Protestant Non-conformity
dern works on this side.

CTION OF CASES to recover Dissenters. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1718.

(Thomas). *A Discourse on Schism*. 8vo.

Edward). *Controversial Treatises against Dissenters*.
.

OF NON-CONFORMITY. 8vo. 1704.

cerning the scheme in 1661 for a comprehension of Dissenters.

(John). *Three Letters to a Dissenter, with two De-*
Appendix. 1746—1750.

is led to Towgood's *Dissenting Gentleman's Answer*.

[7] *Treatises on Heresies.*

(G. J). *Historia de Controversiis Pelagianis*. 4to. 1618.
ays that it might be styled an *Apology for Pelagianism*.

). *De Pelagianis et Semipelagianis*. 4to. 1617.
Commended by Usher.

Samuel). *Antinomianism Unmasked*. 8vo.
good thoughts. The preface by R. Hall very striking.

[8] PASTORAL THEOLGGY.

(1) *Treatises on the Pastoral Care.*

ostom, Jerome, Gregory the Great, Baxter, Cecil,
Fletcher.

MAN'S INSTRUCTOR AND ASSISTANT. 2 Vol. 8vo. Oxford
(Bishop). *A Discourse of the Pastoral Care*. 12mo.

An excellent work.

s (John). *The Preacher, with a discourse, entitled,*
a Vol. 1705—1709.

l remarks, though with severity, on various writers. He was
Robert Lightfoot, which led to a vindication and a rejoinder.

(Cotton). *Student and Pastor*.

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HERBERT (George). *The Country Parson.* Various editions.
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WILSON (Bishop). *Parochialia.* 12mo. 1788.
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Sound arguments against many that are indefensible, and a pleading for those less objectionable.

(2) *Treatises on the Composition of a Sermon.*

ERASMI (D). *Ecclesiastes.* 12mo. Various editions.
That by Dr. Bray has only the first book. The whole work was republished, in 1820, by F. A. Klein.

COOKE (John). *The Preacher's Assistant.* 2 Vol. 8vo. 1783.
It contains a list, in the order of the Scriptures, of the Sermons that have been preached. It is a very useful work for reference, but scarce and dear.¹

SIMEON (Charles). *Skeletons of Sermons.* 5 Vol. 8vo. 1815.—
Horæ Homileticæ. 11 Vol. 8vo. 1820. with a farther continuation,
in 6 Vol. 8vo. 1828.

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WILLIAMS (Edward). *The Christian Preacher.* 12mo.
A very useful work for a minister, with valuable directions on the choice of books.

CAMPBELL (George). *Lectures on Pulpit Eloquence.* Various editions.

Many excellent observations.

FORDYCE (James). *A Dialogue on the Art of Preaching.*
Third edition. 1755.

Some useful hints.

(3) *Episcopal and Archidiaconal Charges and Lectures.*

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MASSILLON (P). *Translation of the Charges addressed to his Clergy.* By Rev. T. St. John. 8vo. 1805.

Very impressive and awakening.

¹ Cooke's *Preacher's Assistant* is a most convenient Index of Sermons down to 1783. If continued to the present time, and made to include Commentaries and Treatises founded on chapters and texts, and printed in a smaller type, so as to come in one volume, it being only wanted for reference, it would be an invaluable work to ministers.

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HORLEY (Bishop). Charges. 8vo. 1813.

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GIBSON (Bishop). Pastoral Letters. 12mo. 1760.

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DODWELL (W). Athanasian Creed Vindicated. 12mo. 1802.

BROWNE (J. H). Charges to the Archdeaconry of Ely.

Those hitherto published have been very valuable.

IX. HORTATORY THEOLOGY,

Or, Homilies, Lectures, and Sermons.

(1) *Homilies.*

See Commentaries and Sermons.

THE BOOK OF HOMILIES of the Church of England. Various editions.

(2) *Lectures in Defence of Natural and Revealed Religion.*

See Hurd, Davison, Althorp.

Boyle's, Lady Moyer, Warburtonian, Bampton, Hulsean, Donnellan's, Hutchins' and Fairchild's Lectures, have led to some excellent Sermons many of which have been noticed before under other heads.

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STUCKLEY (Lewis). Gospel Glass. 12mo. 1809.

A good book for self-examination.

VENN (Henry). Complete Duty of Man. Various editions.—Essay on the Prophecy of Zecharias. Various editions.

WRIGHT (Samuel). Treatises on Sin and Regeneration.

WORTHINGTON (John). On Self-renunciation. 8vo. 1675.

WILBERFORCE (W). Practical Views of the prevailing religious Systems of professed Christians.

ZIMMERMAN (J. L). On Knowledge of Christ. 12mo. 1772.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS TREATISES IN DIVINITY.

There are periodical publications, monthly, quarterly, and annually, that might be introduced under this head. Each denomination of Christians, and the various classes of some, have their respective periodical work. They are diffusing constantly a vast mass of intelligence, and very much influence the mind of their respective classes. While the Christian can use many with thankfulness, and some have been eminently serviceable to the Church of God, yet, like all other human productions, they cannot be universally relied on, and we must try all by the Scriptures of truth.

EAST (John). *Sea Side*. 1827. 12mo.

GREEN (Neh.) *Cosmologia Sacra; a Discourse on the Universe, as it is the Creature and Kingdom of God*. fo. 1701.

HEY (William). *Tracts and Essays (including two on the Divinity and Atonement of Christ)*. 8vo. 1822.

The observations of a clear and vigorous mind on various important topics.

HUTCHINSON (Frances). *An Essay concerning Witchcraft*. 8vo. 1720.

PRICE (Richard). *Four Dissertations on Providence and Prayer*. 8vo. 1767.

FOSTER (John). *Essays*. 8vo. 1826.

Original, and calculated to enlarge the mind.

KNOX (V). *Christian Philosophy*. 12mo. 1798.

A powerful defence of the need of divine influence.

BOWDLER (John). *Select Pieces in Verse and Prose*. 2 Vol. 8vo. The Theological Tracts of this able writer were published separately in 12mo.

WILKS (S. C.) *Christian Essays*. 8vo. 1828.

SUMNER (Dr. Bird). *Records of Creation*. 2 Vol. 8vo.

DAVIES (J). *An Estimate of the Human Mind*. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1828.

An able and Christian view of the subject.

Other metaphysical writers might be enumerated under this head; they serve to strengthen and enlarge the powers of the mind, but give, if the author, with imperfect knowledge, may judge, but little light in scriptural divinity: one builds a beautiful system, and another comes after him, and overthrows it all. We can rest on nothing but the Bible. The writings of Stewart, Reid, Browne, Payne, &c. cannot easily be read without advantage. But let the Christian Student not be carried away by any human systems.

Section III.

HISTORICAL DIVINITY, OR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS.

(1) *General History.*

See Edwards's History of Redemption.

ADAM (Robert). Religious World Displayed. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1823.
A very full, useful, and accurate account of the religions of the world, as they at present exist.

WILLIAMS (T). A Dictionary of all Religions and Religious Denominations, ancient and modern. Third Edition. 8vo. 1823.
A very valuable book of reference.

ALLEY (Jerome). *Vindiciæ Christianæ*; a Comparative Estimate of the Genius and Temper of the Greek, the Roman, the Hindu, the Mahometan, and the Christian Religions.
A comprehensive work with much information.¹

(2) *History and Religious Customs of the Jews—Talmudical Writings.*

See Lightfoot.

One of the most complete and systematic works is the *Mischna* of Surenhusius, 6 vol. folio, containing the system of Hebrew jurisprudence, rites, antiquities, and oral law.

JOSEPHUS (Flavius). His Works.

The best editions in the original are those of Hudson, Havercamp, and Oberthur, and in English that by Whiston.

Very valuable in illustrating various particulars in the New Testament. The works of Philo Judæus (the best edition by Mangey) have a similar use.

THE APOCRYPHA.

The undue claim put in for the admission of these books into the divine canon has had such a re-action, that they have been neglected in their real use as human writings.

BASNAGE (James). The History of the Jews, from Jesus Christ to the Present Time, being a continuation of the History of Josephus; translated by T. Taylor. fo. 1708.

ADAM (Hannah). History of the Jews, from the Destruction of Jerusalem. 8vo. 1818.

ALLEN (John). Modern Judaism; or a Brief Account of the Opinions, Rites, and Ceremonies of the Modern Jews. 8vo. 1817.

FLEURY (Claude). The Manners of the Israelites, by A. Clarke. 8vo. 1820.

A useful work for the young.

¹ In a correspondence with Mr. Alley, some defective expressions were noticed to him—on one respecting charity, he says, 'Your observation on the concluding passage of my description of Christian charity is just and decisive. Mere charity, though including all the graces which the Apostle has attributed to it, cannot "bring down upon us the blessing of salvation," which is to be derived solely from the mercies of the Atonement. Here also I have been too lax or too ardent in my expression, and I shall readily avail myself of the first opportunity of rectifying the error.'

TOWNLEY (James). *Reasons of the Law of Moses*, translated from Maimonides, with Notes. 8vo. 1827.

(3) *History of the Christian Religion.*

(1) *General History of the Christian Church.*

See Cave, Dupin, &c.

[1] *General Ecclesiastical Historians.*

EUSEBII Pamphili, **RUFFINI**, **THEODORITI**, **EVAGRII**, **SOCRATIS**, **SOZOMENI**, and **THEODORI** *Historiæ Ecclesiasticæ*.

These works, with others, were printed in one vol. fo. 1691. in Latin. There is also an English translation of Eusebius, Socrates, and Evagrius, fo. 1683. They should be read through.

CAMPBELL (George). *Lectures on Ecclesiastical History.*

Some valuable remarks in this work. His attack on Episcopacy was replied to by Bishop Skinner, in his *Primitive Truth*, &c. 8vo. 1808.

CAVE (William). *Lives of the Fathers of the First Four Ages of the Church.* 2 Vol. fo.

CLARKE (Samuel). *The Marrow of Ecclesiastical History.* Third Edition. fo. 1675.

Various particulars of the lives of eminent men, not now to be found elsewhere.

DUPIN (L. E.). *A new History of Ecclesiastical Writers.* 8 Vol. fo.

This has been mentioned under a previous head. The original French work is in 19 vol. 4to. 1688—1715.

ECHARD (Laurence). *A General Ecclesiastical History.* 2 Vol. 8vo. 1722.

ERSKINE (John). *Sketches of Church History.* 2 Vol. 12mo. 1790—7.

WEISMAN (C. E.). *Introductio in Memorabilia Ecclesiastica Historiæ Sacræ.* 2 Vol. 4to. 1745.

A vast body of information, by a pious writer; one of Dr. Spener's school.

FOX (John). *Acts and Monuments of the Church.* 3 Vol. fo. 1684.

The very spirit of the Reformers brought before us by a man of a kindred spirit.

GILLIES (John). *Historical Collections.* 2 Vol. 8vo. 1754.

JORTIN (John). *Remarks on Ecclesiastical History* 3 Vol. 1805.

Clever and critical, but wanting in more important things.

MILLAR (Robert). *History of the Propagation of Christianity.* 2 Vol. 8vo.

MILNER (Joseph and Dean). *History of the Church of Christ.* 5 Vol. 8vo. 1824. And Continuation by Scott. 2 Vol.

A work eminently pious and useful, having much of the mind of the Spirit. The best history of the real Church.

MOSHEIM (J. L.). Commentaries on the Affairs of Christians, before Constantine, by R. S. Vidal. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1813.—Ecclesiastical History, by A. Maclaine. 6 Vol. 8vo. 1811.

Useful as to the history of external things. He and Milner should be read together; but Mosheim is a poor historian as to the real Church.

KAYE (Bishop). Ecclesiastical History of the Second and Third Centuries. 8vo. 1826.

MAGDEBURGH Centuriators—Historia Ecclesiastica. 3 Vol. folio. 1624.

Walchius prefers the edition in 13 vol. fo. 1519—1574. This work embraces thirteen centuries. Villiers calls them 'The Fathers of real ecclesiastical history;' and it is very full of useful information.

SPANHEIMII (F.). Historia Ecclesiastica. From the Creation to the Reformation.

A very comprehensive and valuable history; will be rarely referred to in vain for information. It is in the first volume of his works, in folio.

BAXTER (Richard). Church History of the Government of Bishops and their Councils. 4to. 1680.

Contains much information respecting the errors of Councils, taken from Binius and Crabbe.

[The more extended Works of Baronius, Fleury, &c. are fitted rather for public than private Libraries.]

[2] *Miscellaneous Collections relative to the General History of the Christian Church.*

BINGHAM (Joseph). Origines Ecclesiasticæ. 2 Vol. folio, or 10 Vol. 8vo.

Fall of valuable learning on the early state of the Church.

FABRICII (J. A.). Salutaris Lux Evangelii. 4to. 1731.

A great deal of information on the propagation of the Gospel.

USSERII (Archbishop). De Christianarum Ecclesiarum successionē et statu. 4to. 1633.

In this work Archbishop Usher follows up Bishop Jewell's Apology, down to the 14th century. It was never completed.

(2) *General History of the Reformation.*

BASNAGE (J.). Histoire de la Religion des Eglises Reformees. 2 Vol. 4to. 1725.

GERDESIIUS (Daniel). Introductio in Historiam Evangelii Sæcula 16. 4 Vol. 4to. 1744-1752.—And Miscellanea Groningana. 4 Vol. 1714.

SECKENDORF (V. L.). Commentarius Historicus de Lutheranismo. fo. 1692.

The source of the most valuable histories of the Reformation.

SLEIDAN (John). History of the Reformation of the Church, from 1517 to 1562; translated by E. Bohun. fo. 1689.

VILLERS (Charles). *Essai sur l'esprit et l'influence de la Réformation.* 12mo. 1820.

An enlarged view of the literary and political consequences and blessings of the Reformation, but defective as to those higher religious aspects in which the scriptures mainly regard divine truth, and written under some influence of the sceptical spirit of the Continent. There have been English translations by Lambert and Mill.

(3) *Ecclesiastical History of England.*

(1.) *General Ecclesiastical Histories.*

BEDÆ. *Historiæ Ecclesiasticæ Gentis Anglorum.* fo. 1712.

USSERI (Abp). *Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates.* 4to. 1639.

FULLER (Thomas). *Church History of Great Britain.* fo. 1755. Quaint and witty, but sensible, pious, candid, and useful; an invaluable body of information to the death of Charles the First.

STILLINGFLEET (Bp). *Origines Britannicæ.* fo. 1710.—Continued by J. INNETT. fo. 1704.

WARNER (Richard). *Ecclesiastical History of England.* 2 Vol. fo. 1756-7.

COLLIER (Jeremy). *Ecclesiastical History of Great Britain.* 2 fo. 1708.

Collier was a non-juror; he has collected much information.

(2.) *Histories during Particular Periods, and Memoirs relative thereto.*

Several modern publications by Southey, Townsend, White, Philpotts, &c. and by Butler, throw light on this subject. Cressy, fo. 1618: Dod, 3 Vol. fo. 1737-1742; and Lingard, are Roman Catholic works on Church and English Histories, as is Alford's in 4 Vol. fo. 1663.

BURNET (Gilbert). *History of the Reformation.* 6 Vol. Various editions.

SOAMES (H). *History of Reformation.* 3 Vol. 8vo. 1828.

STRYPE (John). *Ecclesiastical Memorials and Annals.* 13 Vol. 8vo. and his *Lives of Cranmer, Parker, Whitgift, Grindal.* 11 Vol. 8vo.

Invaluable documents of the most interesting periods of ecclesiastical history. A faithful and industrious historian.

HEYLYN (Peter). *History of the Reformation.* fo. 1660.

A party writer, to be read with caution. He perverts and misrepresents.

RIDLEY (Gloucester). *Life of Bishop Ridley.* 4to. 1763.

THE PHOENIX. *A revival of scarce Pieces.*—It contains several valuable historical documents. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1707-8.

WALKER (Clement). *The History of Independency.* 3 Parts, 4to. 1648-1651.

CLARENDON (Lord). History of the Rebellion. 6 Vol.

This should be compared with other contemporary histories, with Baxter, Whitelock, Rushworth's Historical Collections. Hardly any writers of these times seems wholly unbiassed.

WALKER (John). The Sufferings of the Clergy of the Church of England in the time of the Rebellion. fo. 1714.

This should be compared with Calamy's Continuation of Baxter's Life and times.

BURNET (Bp). History of his own times. 6 Vol. 8vo. 1827.

WOODWARD (Josiah). Account of the Rise and Progress of the Religious Societies. 12mo. 1744.

A very gratifying account of the labours of good men at a period when religion was very low in our country.

YATES (Richard). The Church in Danger, and the Patronage of the Church of England. 8vo. 1815-1823.

Sensible and seasonable publications on very important subjects.

(3.) *Convocations of the Clergy.*

ATTERBURY (Francis). The Rights, Powers, and Privileges of an English Convocation. 2d edition, 8vo. 1701.

Written with vigour and perspicuity; met with a full reply in the following work.

WAKE (William). The state of the Church and Clergy of England, historically deduced. fo. 1703.

Written in a Christian spirit.

(4.) *History of Dissenters.*

See Doddridge, Watts.

NEAL (Dan). The History of the Puritans. 5 Vol. 8vo. 1822.

A valuable and instructive history, with a strong bias in favour of his subjects, but an upright mind.—The answers to it are

GREY (Zach). Review of Neal's History. 3 Vol. 1736-1739.

In the edition of Neale above mentioned, Grey's objections are noticed.

MADOX (Bishop). Vindication of the Church of England. 1 Vol. 8vo. 1733.

Bishop Warburton has also some keen notes on Neal.

BOGUE (David) and BENNETT (James). The History of the Dissenters. 4 Vol. 8vo. 1808-1812.

A bias in favour of Dissenters.

WILSON (Walter). History and Antiquities of Dissenting Churches, including the lives of their Ministers, 4 Vol. 8vo. 1828.

Mr. Orme speaks of this as containing curious and interesting information.

BROOKS (Benjamin). Lives of the Puritans. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1813.

HEYLYN (Peter). History of the Presbyterians. fo. 1670.

A prejudiced writer. See (on the other side) the History of the Scotch Church.

IVIMEY (Joseph). History of the English Baptists. 2 Vol. 8vo.

SEWELL (William). *The History of the Quakers.* 2 Vol. 8vo. 1785.

T. Wright wrote a history of the Quakers in Ireland, and T. Clarkson a portraiture of Quakerism. See Lealie's works for an opponent's views. George Keith also wrote several works against Quakers.

CRANTZ (David). *History of the United Brethren.* 8vo. 1780.

SOUTHEY (Robert). *The Life of Wesley, and the Rise and Progress of Methodism.* 8vo. 1820.

This should be read with the following work.

WATSON (Richard). *Observations on the Life of Wesley.* 8vo. 1820.—*Defence of the Wesleyan Missions.* 8vo. 1817.

BENSON (Joseph). *Apology for the Methodists.* 12mo. 1801.

LINDSEY (Theophilus). *An Historical View of Unitarians.* 8vo. 1783.

BUTLER (Charles). *Historical Memoirs respecting the English, Scotch, and Irish Roman Catholics.* 4 Vol. 8vo. 1822.

BLAIR (William). *The Revival of Popery.* 8vo. 1819.

(4) *Ecclesiastical History of Scotland and Ireland.*

JAMIESON (John). *Historical Account of the ancient Culdees.*

SPOTSWOOD (John Abp). *The History of the Church of Scotland.* fo. 1655.

SKINNER (John). *Ecclesiastical History of Scotland.* 2 Vol. 8vo. 1788. and *Annals to 1816.* 8vo. 1818.

Jones calls the first work a plain and unaffected detail of facts, interesting and amusing.

KNOX (John). *The History of the Reformation of Scotland.* fo. 1732.

CALDERWOOD (David). *The true History of the Church of Scotland.* fo. 1678.

COOKE (George). *History of the Reformation in Scotland.* 3 Vol. 8vo. 1811.

M'CRIE (Thomas). *Lives of Knox and Melville.* 4 Vol. 8vo. 1818-1819.

Many original documents, and much information on the Scotch Reformers. There are various other histories, as by R. Woodrow, 2 Vol. fo. Keith, Brown, &c. A good ecclesiastical history of the Protestant Church in Ireland is wanting.

USHER (Abp). *Discourse on the Religion anciently professed by the Irish.* 4to. 1687.

O'Sullivan and Porter published compendiums of the Catholic history of Ireland, and Sir James Ware several works on the Prelates and antiquities of Ireland.

(5) *Ecclesiastical Histories of Germany and the North of Europe, Holland, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, and other Countries and Churches.*

See Seckendorf.

ADAMI (Melch). *Vitæ Theologorum.* fo. 1705.

ROSE (H. J). *The State of the Protestant Religion in Germany.* 8vo. 1829.

PUSEY (E. B). *An Historical Inquiry into the Rationalist character lately predominant in the Theology of Germany.* 8vo. 1828.

EVANSON (W. A). *Apology for the Modern Theology of Protestant Germany ; a translation of a review of Mr. Rose's Discourses by Dr. Bretschneider.* 8vo. 1827.

These accounts compared will furnish some insight into the present state of theology in Germany.

M'CRAE (Thomas). *History of the Reformation in Italy.* 8vo. 1827.

BRANDT (Gerard). *History of the Reformation in the Low Countries.* 4 Vol. fo. 1720-23.

Brandt was an Arminian, and sets that side in the fairest light.

LEYDECKER (James). *The Honour of the National Synod of Dort, in the years 1618-1619, maintained and established against the accusations of G. Brandt in his History of the Reformation.* 2 Vol. 4to. Dutch, 1705-1707.

There is, it is believed, no translation into Latin or English. A friend who has it gives me the account in the note, of this, and of other Dutch ecclesiastical histories.¹—Spanheim refers to Triglandius as giving the best accounts of the rise of Arminianism.

LEYDECKER (Melchoir). *Historia Jansenismi.* 8vo. 1695.

GALE (Thomas). *The true idea of Jansenism, both Rhetoric and Dogmatic.* 24mo. 1669.

¹ The Dutch Ecclesiastical Historian, *John Uitenbogaart* died at the Hague in September 1644, at the age of 88. His history of the Reformation was published in 1646. *James Trigland, the elder*, was minister of Amsterdam from 1610 to 1634. He was present at the Synod of Dort in 1618-1619, and was Professor at Leyden in 1634, where he died in 1654. He presented his history to the States of Holland in March 1650, under this title 'Church History, including the heavy and distressing disputes that have taken place in the United Netherlands, with their conclusion and remarks upon the history of John Uitenbogaart.' Brand published his first volume in 1671, and his second in 1674; and omits no opportunity of finding fault with Trigland. The books of Uitenbogaart and Trigland are both thick folios. *James Leydecker* was minister at Middleburg. His first volume in 4to. pp. 719, was published in 1705, with a Dedication to the Provincial Synods of South and North Holland. John Brand, the son of G. Brand, threatened to answer it, and published a copy of satirical verses. Leydecker's second volume pp. 549, was published in 1707; of which the main object was to prove that the sufferings of which the Remonstrants complained, were brought on them by their own crimes and misconduct. An Appendix follows, respecting some late occurrences, an account of considerable length of various books which had been published for, and against the Remonstrants: a brief view of the artifices used by the Remonstrants in propagating their opinions, and lastly, a few pages to show that the doctrine of the Arminians respecting Justification was unsound.

DAILLE (John). *Apology for the Reformed Churches*. 12mo. 1653.

QUICK (John). *Synodicon—Acts, &c. of the National Councils of the Reformed Churches in France*. 2 Vol. folio. 1692.

This has been noticed under a previous head.

The General Historians of the French Church, the Samusarthans; Duplex, Le Cointe, and Longueval, are too voluminous for a private library. Thuanus is an invaluable general history from 1543 to 1607. in 7 Vol. folio. 1733—or 11 Vol. 4to. 1740. in French with notes.

GEDDES (Michael). *Miscellaneous Tracts relative to the Ecclesiastical History of Spain and Portugal, and Histories of the Churches of Malabar and Ethiopia*. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1694—1702.

RUCHAT (Abr.). *Histoire de la Reformation de la Suisse*. 12mo. 6 tom. 1727-28.

PERRIN (J. P.). *Luther's Fore-Runners*, translated by Lennard. 4to. 1624.

LEGER (John). *Histoire des Eglises Evangeliques des Vallées de Piedmont*. folio. 1669.

ALLIX (Peter). *Remarks on the Ancient Churches of Piedmont, and the Albigenes*. 2 Vol. 4to.

PEYRAN (J. R.). *Historical Defence of the Waldenses*, with Introduction, &c. By the Rev. Thomas Sims. 8vo. 1826.

Moreland in 1658, Gilly, Jackson, Jones, and others in late years have given accounts of these interesting people, whom Faber considers as the two witnesses of the Revelation.

RYCAUT (Sir Paul). *The present state of the Greek and Armenian Churches*. 8vo. 1679.

SMITH (Thomas). *An account of the Greek Church as to its doctrines and rites*. 8vo. 1680.

COVELL (John). *Some account of the Greek Church*. folio. 1722.

BUCHANAN (Claudius). *Christian Researches in Asia*. 8vo. 1811.

A book that greatly tended to excite the present missionary spirit. See also his *Apology for promoting Christianity, and his Colonial Establishment*.

MOSHEIM (J. L.). *Memoirs of the Christian Church in China*. 8vo. 1750.

LUDOLPHUS (Job). *History of Ethiopia*. folio. 1682.

NEAL (Dan). *The History of New England*. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1747.

MATHER (Cotton). *Ecclesiastical History of New England, from 1620 to 1698*. folio. 1702.

(6) *History of Religious Orders.*

FOSBROOKE (J. D.). *History of Monachism or the Manners and Customs of the Monks of England*. 4to. 1817.

D'EMILLIANNE (Gab.). *History of Monastical Orders*. 8vo. 1693.

POYNDER (John). *A History of the Jesuits, to which is prefixed a Reply to Mr. Dallas*. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1816.

PASCAL (Blaise). Provincial Letters. 8vo. 1816.

LLORENTE (D. J. A). History of the Inquisition of Spain. 8vo. 1826.

LIMBORCH (Philip). The History of the Inquisition—translated into English by Samuel Chandler, with an Introduction on Persecution. 2 Vol. 4to. 1731.

This led to a controversy between Dr. Berriman and Chandler.

(7) *History of Religious Societies.*

BROWN (William). History of the Propagation of Christianity among the Heathen. Second Edition.

Millar published a similar work. 2 Vol. 8vo. 3rd edition. 1730.

WOODWARD (Josiah). Account of the Societies for the Reformation of manners. 12mo. 1744.

ABSTRACT of the Annual Reports and Correspondence of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge. 8vo. 1814.

The Reports and Sermons are published each year.

HUMPHREYS (David). An Historical Account of the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts. 8vo. 1730.

PRATT (Josiah). Propaganda—An Abstract of the Design and Proceedings, and Extracts from the Sermons of the Propagation Society. 8vo. 1819.

SHOBERT (Frederick). Present state of Christianity, and of the Missionary Establishments. 12mo. 1828.

WILLIAMS (Charles). The Missionary Gazetteer. 12mo.

PROCEEDINGS of the Church Missionary Society, from 1800 to 1828. 16 Vol. 8vo.

THE MISSIONARY REGISTER from 1813 to 1828, 3 Vol. 12mo. 12 Vol. 8vo.

The only complete account of missionary proceedings from the date of its publication.

PROPAGATION of the Gospel in the East, by Danish Missionaries. 12mo. 3 Parts. 1718.

PROCEEDINGS of the Prayer Book and Homily Society from 1813.

PROCEEDINGS of the London Missionary Society from 1796.

PROCEEDINGS of the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

PERIODICAL accounts of the Missions of the United Brethren from 1790. 9 Vol.

PERIODICAL accounts relative to the Baptist Missionary. 8 Vol. from 1794.

REPORTS of the British and Foreign Bible Society from 1805.

OWEN (John). History of the First Fifteen Years of the Bible Society. 3 Vol. 8vo.

There are proceedings also of various other Societies.

There are many Publications and Controversies arising out of the Societies which cannot here be enumerated.

LOS KIEL (G. H.). History of Missions among North American Indians. 8vo. 1794.

HOLMES (John). History of Missions of the United Brethren. 8vo. 1818.

JOWETT (W). Christian Researches. 2 Vol. 8vo.

ELLIS (W). Narrative of a Tour through Owhyhee. 8vo.

(4) BIOGRAPHY:

Few subjects are more edifying than the lives of good men. An old writer calls it 'the marrow of Ecclesiastical History.' Coverdale remarks—'It does us good to read and hear, not the lying legends of feigned, false, counterfeited, and Popish canonized Saints, but such true, holy, and approved histories, monuments, orations, epistles, and letters, as do set forth unto us the blessed behaviour of God's dear servants.'¹ It has been said that Henry's brief life of his Father has perhaps been as instrumental in producing holy conduct as the six folio volumes of his Commentaries.

We can merely confine ourselves to Religious Biography. Those who wish to pursue the subject must be referred to Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses*, by Bliss. 4 Vol. 4to. 1813, whose partialities are against Dissenters. To Chalmers, 32 Vol. 8vo. which contains much valuable literary information, or to Aikin's similar work, and to Bayle, 5 Vol. folio. Melchoir Adami Vitæ, Batesii Vitæ, and Freheri Theatrum, are valuable works in Latin. Some lives are included in the collective works of Edwards, Jones, Milner, Newton.

(1) *Collections of Biography.*

WORDSWORTH (Chris). Ecclesiastical Biography. 8vo. 6 Vol. 1818.

A very useful collection of Biography.

MIDDLETON (Erasmus). Evangelical Biography. 4 Vol. 1816.

The work corresponds to the Title.

WALTON (Isaac). Lives of Donne, Wotton, Hooker, Herbert, and Sanderson, 2 Vol. 8vo. 1817.

¹ See his address before certain godly Letters of the martyrs, 1564.

GILPIN (W). *Lives of the Reformers.* 2 Vol. 8vo. 1809.

CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHY published by the Religious Tract Society. 3 Vol. 18mo.

BURNHAM (Richard). *Pious Memorials.* Edited by Rev. George Ayder. 8vo. 1820.

GIBBONS (Thomas). *Memoirs of eminently pious Women.* By the Rev. S. Burder. 3 Vol. 12mo. 1823.

(2) *Particular Lives.*

ALLEINE (Joseph). *His Life, Death, and Christian Letters.* 2mo. 1672.

BAXTER (Richard). *Narrative of his Life and Times.* folio. 1716. By M. Silvester.

A very instructive and entertaining work respecting one of the most interesting periods of English History. Allowance should be made for the imperfection of every human Writer, and for his peculiarities. Bitter animadversions were published on this work in 1690, entitled *Vindiciæ Anti-Baxterianæ*.

BEDELL (William). *Life of,* with Letters. 8vo. 1736.

A very useful work, containing in the appended Letters a good reply to *Phocæ*.

BLACKADER (Colonel). *Life and Diary,* by A. Crichton. 12mo. 1824.

BENNETT (James). *Exemplary Life and Character,* by W. Hamilton. 12mo. 1807.

BOYLE (Hon. R.) *Life,* by T. Birch. 8vo. 1744.

BRAINERD (David). *Life,* by J. Edwards. 8vo. 1824.

BUCHANAN (Claudius). *Memoirs,* by Dr. Hugh Pearson. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1817.

BULL (Bishop). *Life,* by R. Nelson. 8vo. 1713.

To be read for practical edification, but Nelson views too favourably the sentiments of its Author.

BURKITT (William). *Life of,* by N. Parkhurst. 8vo. 1704.

BUNYAN (John). *Life,* by J. Ivimey. 12mo. 1809.

CALVIN (John). *Memoirs,* by Mackenzie. 12mo. 1818.

Almost a continued panegyric on this great Reformer. Lives which enter more into the fallen nature, even of God's best servants, are more valuable, though Calvin's holy piety and active labours were indeed such as strongly to commend his principles. Calvin's Epistles, in his works, would have furnished much interesting additional matter to this Life.

CHAMBERLAIN (John). *Late Missionary in India, Memoirs of,* 8vo. 1825.

CHARLES (T). *Life and Labours of,* by E. Morgan. 12mo. 1828.

COLET (Dr. John). *Life,* by Dr. S. Knight. 8vo. 1823.

DAWSON (Mrs). *Life of,* by the Rev. W. C. Wilson. 12mo. 1828.

DE RENTY (J. B.). *The Holy Life of*, by J. B. St. June. 8vo. 1684.

DODDRIDGE (Phillip). *Memoirs*, by Job Orin. 12mo. 1822.

EDWARDS (Jon). *Life of*, by Hawkesley. 12mo. 1818.

ERASMUS (D). *Life*, by Dr. J. Jortin. 3 Vol. 8vo. 1808.

ERSKINE (Dr. John). *Life*, by Sir H. M. Welwood. 8vo. 1818.

FISK (Pliny). *A Missionary to Palestine, Life of*, by A. Hall. 12mo. 1828.

FLETCHER (J. W. De la). *Life* by J. Benson. 8vo. 1817.

Mr. Cox has also published his *Life*.

GOOD (Dr). *Life of*, by Olinthus Gregory. 8vo. 1822.

GARDINER (Col. James). *Life*, by Dr. Doddridge. 12mo. 1808.

GOODWIN (John). *The Life of*, with an account of his opinions and writings, by T. Jackson. 8vo. 1822.

An able defence of this celebrated Arianism.

HALE (Sir M). By Bishop Burnet; and HAMMOND (Dr. Henry), by Dr. J. Fell. 12mo. 1806.

HALL (Bishop). *His Life and Times*, by the Rev. J. Jones. 8vo. 1827.

HALYBURTON (Thomas). *Life*. 12mo. various editions.

HENRY (Phillip). *Life*, by M. Henry, edited by J. B. Williams. 8vo. 1825.

HENRY (M). *Memoirs of*, his Life, Character, and Writings, by J. B. Williams. 8vo. 1828.

HERVEY (James). *Life and Character*, by John Brown. 8vo. 1828. An edifying work. Mr. Brown explains and defends Mr. Hervey's sentiments.

HEY (William). *Life*, by John Pearson. 8vo. 1822.

HUTCHINSON (Col). *Life* by Mrs. Hutchinson. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1810.

LAUD (Abp).

There are several Lives of this Prelate. The most recent one in favour of the Archbishop, is that by Mr. Lawson. Those by Prynne, entitled the Breviate, the Introduction to his Trial, and the History of his Trial are in three thin volumes. folio. 1644, 5, 6, and adverse to him.

MATHER (Cotton). *Life of*, by Samuel Mather. 8vo. 1729.

MARTYN (Henry). *Memoir of*, by J. Sargent. 12mo. 1821.

MELANCTHON (Philip). *Life of*, by the Rev. F. A. Cox. 8vo. 1815.

NOWEL (Dean). *Life*, by Ralph Churton. 8vo. 1809.

OWEN (John). *Life*, by W. Orme. 8vo. 1826.

PARSONS (Levi). *Missionary to Palestine, Life of*, by D. O. Morton. 12mo. 1824.

POCOCK (Reynold). *Life*, by J. Lewis. 8vo. 1820.

RICHMOND (Legh). *Life*, by T. S. Grimshawe. 8vo. 1828.

- RIDLEY** (Bishop). Life, by Gloucester Ridley. 4to. 1763.
- ROBINSON** (Thomas). Life, by E. T. Vaughan. 8vo. 1815.
- RUTHERFORD** (Samuel). Life of, by Thomas Murray. 12mo. 1838.
- SANCROFT** (Abp). Life, by D'Oyly. 2 vol. 8vo. 1821.
- SAVAGE Mrs.** Life, by J. B. Williams. 12mo. 1821.
- SCOTT** (Thomas). Life, by J. Scott. 8vo. 1828.
- SHOWER** (John). Memoirs of, by W. Tong. 8vo. 1716.
- SPENCER** (Thomas). Memoirs of, Dr. Raffles. 12mo. 1827.
- TANNER** (Henry). Life and Writings, by Dr. Hawker. 8vo. 1807.
- TAYLOR** (Bp). Life, by Bishop Heber. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1824.
- TILLOTSON** (Abp), Life of, by T. Birch. 8vo. 1753.
- TRIMMER** (Mrs). Life and Letters. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1816.
- WALKER** (Mrs. E). Life. 12mo. 1827.
- WALTON** (Bp). Memoirs of Life and Writings, by J. H. Todd, 2 Vol. 8vo. 1821.
- WATTS** (Isaac). Memoirs, by Gibbons. 8vo. 1780.
- WESLEY** (John). There are various Biographies. See that by Mr. Moore. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1824.
- WHITFIELD** (George). Life, by John Gillies. 8vo. 1813.
- WICKLIFFE** (John de). Life and Opinions of, by Robert Vaughan. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1828.
- A work containing much original information.
- WILLIAMS** (Joseph). Diary, Meditations, and Letters: various editions.
- WILSON** (Bp). Life, by H. Stowell. 8vo. 1825.
- ZUINGLIUS** (Ulrich). Life, by J. H. Hess, translated by Miss Aikin, 8vo. 1812.

(8) *Pagan and Mohammedan Religion.*

(1.) *Pagan Religions.*

- VOSSII** (G. J). De Ortu et Progressu Idololatriæ. 2 Vol. folio. 1668.
- BRYANT** (Jacob). Analysis of Ancient Mythology. 4to. 3 Vol. 1774.
- FABER** (G. S). Origin of Pagan Idolatry. 3 Vol. 4to. 1816.
- GALE** (T). Court of the Gentiles. 5 parts. 4to. 1669—1678.
- KENNETT** (Basil). Antiquities of Rome. 8vo. 1793.
- POTTER** (Abp). Antiquities of Greece, with additions by G, Dunbar. 2 Vol. 8vo. 1820.

WARD (William). *View of the History, Literature, and Mythology of the Hindoos.* 3 vol. 8vo. 1822.—*Farewell Letters.* 12mo.

JONES (Sir W). *Institutes of the Hindoo Law.* 8vo. 1797.

AILEY (Jerome). *Vindiciæ Christianæ.* 8vo. 1826.

A learned and comprehensive survey of the features of false religion, as contrasted with Christianity. See also Ryan's *Effects of Religion.*

CUDWORTH (Ralph). *Intellectual System.* 4 Vol. 8vo.

'It will at least be expedient, I had almost said necessary, to know so much of the opinions of Heathen Antiquity as is to be learned from those authentic documents which the industry of the indefatigable Cudworth has collected and arranged with great judgment.'—Horsley.

(2.) *Mohammedan.*

THE KORAN, translated by George Sale. 2 Vol. 8vo.

There is a refutation of the Koran by Lewis Maraccii. 2 Vol. folio. 1698. He gives the original Koran, a translation, notes, and refutation. Grotius's last book on the truth of Christianity, answers the Mohammedans.

PRIDEAUX (H). *The true Nature of Imposture.* 8vo. 1723.

MARTYN (Henry). *Controversial Tracts*, edited by Professor Lee. 8vo.

RELANDI (H). *De Religione Mohammedica.* 8vo. 1717.

MILLS (Charles). *The History of Mohammedism.* 8vo. 1817.

NEALE (—). *Mahomedan System of Theology.* 8vo.

The Author would close this long list of Books with one or two practical remarks. The importance of being rightly guided from above to that sound knowledge which will not be condemned in the great day, is unspeakable. May we ever first seek that guidance.

A diligent preparation for obtaining Holy Orders is a clear duty, but ministers should not make their ordination the termination of their studies. Have not some, after just acquiring sufficient knowledge to pass an examination, felt wholly relieved in the thought of having no further account to give to men of their knowledge or ignorance, regardless, as has been observed, of the tremendous account, to be rendered before the tribunal of God?

Of all the heavy judgments which can fall upon

a people, none are more tremendous than that of ignorant and wicked ministers. When it can be said of a place, *O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths ; when they call evil good, and good evil—put darkness for light, and light for darkness,* then is there a special divine displeasure. Amos viii. 11. Surely every minister should, above all things, dread bringing this tremendous judgment upon a land. If the Assyrian was the rod of God's anger on Israel for a season ; he at the same time ensured his own destruction.

May we earnestly seek, not the pleasing of man, nor our own ease, glory, or reputation, but the truth of God, first for ourselves, and then for others. If we are commissioned, "Go and teach ;" surely we ought to be taught ourselves, and should especially and diligently seek Divine teaching.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE MISSIONARY'S LIBRARY.

A Missionary, in the true sense of the term, is the highest style and title of man. We need not tell our Readers in general, that the word Apostle, derived from the Greek language, is similar in its import to the word Missionary, derived from the Latin, and both mean one sent forth ; a messenger not merely from man, but a messenger from the most high God ;—*Missionaries are ambassadors for Christ, as though God.*

did beseech men by them. Well then may we, in the *last* place point out the Missionary's Library; he sustains a far higher office than any that dignified human titles in a Christian country confer.

We would not however, by distinct lists, strengthen an impression which is too general, that the Ministerial and Missionary offices are essentially distinct. All ministers ought to be in truth Missionaries. But there are many works which are more immediately requisite on a foreign station than in a Christian country, and in this view this chapter is added.

The chief preparation indeed of the Missionary is included in that divine appointment, by which he, like the great Apostle, is set apart as *a chosen vessel to bear the name of Christ before the Gentiles*. Our fervent prayers should daily be offered up to *the Lord of the harvest to send*, or thrust forth himself, *labourers into his harvest*. Unless sent of him, they will labour in vain; unless he separate *Paul and Barnabas for the work whereunto* he has *appointed them*, they will go forth and return without profit.

Dr. Buchanan's Remarks on the subject of this chapter, in the sermon preached before the Church Missionary Society, are so weighty and instructive, that we cannot do better than quote them:—

Missionaries must be men into whose hearts the true light hath shined; such preachers as our own Church approves; who "trust that they are moved to the work by the Holy Ghost." And, with regard to their outward deportment, they must be men whose dispositions accord with those which are described in the Sermon on the Mount, such as the Hindoo Christians call "Men of the Beatitudes:" that is their proper character; and there are more persons of that description in Great Britain at this day, than there were in Judea, in the time of our Saviour. This is sufficiently evident from the Evangelic History.

He then thus answers the inquiry, what degree of learning they ought to possess.

preachers, whom our Saviour sent forth, were men of low condition, and destitute of human learning. This was intended, that the divine power of his Gospel might be made manifest, by the apparently inadequate means employed in its propagation. All learning, however, of whatever kind, which is necessary for their ministry, was imparted to them supernaturally.

the Apostle Paul—the “chosen vessel”—who was ordained to preach to the Gentiles, was not destitute of human learning, supernaturally acquired. And we are taught by his Epistles, that we may dispense of every human aid to dispense the blessings of the Gospel; such as rank, wealth, eloquence, and learning. For all are blessings of God; and are means of persuading men, as well as speech itself. Has it ever been imagined, that a man could preach the Gospel without the gift of speech, by signs alone? All human aids, I say, are valuable gifts of God; and only cease to be blessings by the abuse of them. It is true, that the Gospel was preached with great energy by the ministers possessing inconceivable attainments in literature. It sometimes happens, that the most successful ministrations are conducted by men of very moderate acquirements. And, indeed, the character of the Gospel requires, that, in most cases (where the true doctrine is preached) it should give more honour to zeal and diligence than to genius and learning. But it is also true, that God is pleased to make himself known by the use of MEANS. And, when these are used in subordination to his grace, he will HONOUR the minister. This has been the experience of every eminent preacher of the Gospel, in the history of Christianity, from the time of the first Apostle Paul, down to the pious, the eloquent, and the honoured Luther, who so long and so successfully ministered in this church.¹ It is expedient, then, that those who go forth as preachers to the heathen at this day, should, like the first great preacher, have a competent degree of knowledge; that they may be able to meet the arguments of the more learned among the Heathen.

We have sometimes been ashamed to see the Christian Missionary rendered silent by the intelligent Brahmin, in some point relating to the history of Eastern nations, or to the present state of mankind. I felt anxious for the credit of Christianity, if I may so speak, on such occasions: for the argument from *fact*, and from the *present state* of the world, is strong ground; both for the Christian against his adversary, in all discussions relating to a revelation from God. This is well illustrated in the history of St. Paul, who contended with the learned at Athens on their own principles; and even with their poets in defence of the Gospel.

Let us then honour human learning. Every branch of knowledge which a good man possesses, he may apply to some good

¹ The Rev. William Romaine.

to know nothing among them, but Christ and him crucified; and the true Missionary will never depart from this, the very spirit of the Apostles. As they were *gifted with tongues, and the word of knowledge*, so he must seek to acquire by ordinary means those needful qualifications with which they were instantaneously and miraculously endowed, but he will still view them merely as means for his higher end, to make known Christ and his great salvation, the chief theme on which he always delights to dwell.

The remarks of the Rev. J. N. Pearson, in his address to Missionary Students are just and important. 'The notion that piety alone is a sufficient qualification for entering the lists with the Atheist, and the Idolater, with the Mahomedan and the Jew, is contrary to experience, and to the testimony of God, both in his word and in the visible method of his government. The most vigorous powers of the mind, in its most advanced state of improvement, are not more than an adequate array against those powers of darkness which have entrenched themselves in the fastnesses of man's vitiated understanding. It is the part of true piety, to avail itself of every engine, which the spirit of the gospel does not disallow, for subverting that throne which is founded on the wisdom of the world.'

For a Missionary to go out uninstructed, and without suitable preparation and due use of means, would be yielding to the temptation of that subtle adversary, who assailed Christ himself by the vain suggestion of a special providence if he cast himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, instead of going down by the ordinary descent. When sufficient means, without miraculous interference, are already attainable, pre-

vided, and may be freely used, it is not faith, but presumption and tempting God, to seek to accomplish the best object by a method to which, however it may seem to honour his providence, we are not called by any command of his word, or any necessity of our circumstances.

The case of Henry Martyn furnishes an example of the value of learning to the Missionary. In Persia he found all the knowledge which he had acquired, serviceable in giving him access to the Mahomedans, and influence over their minds. Discerning his superiority, they gave him their attention, and listened to one, whom otherwise they would have disregarded.

Some of the Heathen are persons of considerable learning in the works of their own country. Many have a very acute intellect and much subtilty, and though it may often please God to show the power of his own simple word, by making it baffle and bring to nought all the wisdom of the wise; yet it may also please Him to rebuke an ignorance of His servants which arises from negligence, by putting them to shame before the heathen, and thus a reproach may be brought on religion, which a due course of study would have prevented.

Wisely to meet many of the objections of the heathen, the Missionary must be acquainted with their manners and customs, their traditions and superstitions, their religious rites, and their mode of reasoning. At least with the knowledge which books afford on these topics, he will not be liable to be taken by surprize, and will be often saved from needlessly committing himself.

The Missionary will have to guard against the

temptation of making literary studies, which it may be his duty to pursue, an idol of the heart, and of sinking into the mere literary luxury of self-indulgent study. We become greatly interested in studies in which we are making progress, and they may soon take too deep a hold on the mind. Prayer, the reading of the Scriptures, and the daily practical duties of our station, will furnish us with good barometers, showing us where we are. If we go to these reluctantly, and especially if we neglect them, we are in the temptation. This is a snare, as great at least, perhaps greater, to those who have not before they went out, vigorously applied their minds to studies as to those who have. The faithful Missionary will not be unthankful for such a caution.

In the case of NEW TRANSLATIONS of the Scriptures and other works, the Missionary, with gifts and qualifications for this service, will, as Dr. Buchanan notices, and subsequent experience manifests, find a thorough knowledge of grammar, and the original languages of scripture, and the vernacular version into which the book is to be transferred, of great, if not of indispensable importance.

It is indeed true, that with the advantage of the English translation alone, and a full knowledge of the language into which the version is to be made, such a version may be produced as will of itself be exceedingly useful in guiding the people to the knowledge of scriptural truth, and any version almost is better than none; for even amid palpable defects, light enough breaks through to guide the sinner to the Saviour; yet for a work of such inestimable moment as transferring the mind of God in his word from one language to another, and with the awful

threatenings which are recorded against adding to, or subtracting from his word, every Christian will feel it to be his duty to attain the best possible help, and to give to the Heathen the best practicable version. Perfection here, as in other human works, is unattainable, but every approach towards it, in a work of such moment, is truly beneficial.

It is sometimes needful to form unfixed languages, to reduce them to writing, and give the scriptures to the people in their previously unwritten tongues. This is a work of prodigious labour, and of gradual and slow attainment. But many Missionaries have already furnished different heathen countries with this inestimable benefit. For accomplishing this, a complete series of critical works, of grammars, dictionaries, and the best philological books, are of considerable value. On subjects like this, the author feels too uninformed to be competent to give adequate information, but such as he has he gives.

The Bible will always be the one book of the Missionary. The Acts of the Apostles especially are full of invaluable instruction to him, even more than would at first sight be supposed.¹ He must expect many enemies. He goes to attack a powerful kingdom, the kingdom of darkness, with all its forces under the control and government of a subtle, malignant and mighty foe, the prince of darkness. The professors of the dominant religion will be first roused, and they

¹ Matthew Henry's Commentary upon the Acts is written by one who, having himself seen the evil of persecution, would write under those feelings which gave him many advantages for furnishing a wise and experimental exposition of it; and, if we mistake not, the Missionary will find it full of the most suitable directions for him, in a variety of new and difficult circumstances in which he will be placed.

will try to move the local government, and if they fail there, to prejudice the mass of the people against him. Satan's devices do not terminate with outward enemies; if these fail, he will, by false brethren, and heresies, and divisions, seek to mar a work which he cannot overthrow. In all these cases, the Bible, and especially the Acts and the Epistles, are invaluable, as full of similar scenes and circumstances. Missions have given us a new insight into the meaning and fulness of the Bible; and the Missionary sheet-anchor, in the storms and tempests which he will have to weather out among the heathen, is the word of God.

The Missionary Register is an invaluable publication to those labouring among the heathen. The author has been assured, by Missionaries who have spent years in this blessed service, that no human work has been of more eminent service to stir up their hearts to believing labours, than this judicious, comprehensive, and most valuable digest of the proceedings of Missionaries and of Religious Societies. Having himself no share in the conducting of this work, the author feels at full liberty to give this testimony to its value.

The true Missionary not being able to read much, it is especially important to him, to have a few of the most powerful, and spiritual, and quickening treatises of such authors as Hall, Leighton, Beveridge, Owen, Baxter, &c. and also such lives as those of Brainerd and Martyn, to raise his affections to God, amid the scenes of heathen abomination with which he is surrounded.

There are many devotional works that the Missionary should have, not merely for his own perusal, but for the benefit of Europeans with whom he may have intercourse. Besides his general desire to do good, he will often be receiving kindnesses from Europeans,

of which he will be desirous to give some token of his sense; if he has copies of such pious works as are mentioned in the libraries given in chapter fourteen, he will have many a gratifying opportunity of promoting the best interests of those with whom he thus becomes connected.

Christians labour among the Heathen in various capacities, such as Ministers, Translators of the Scripture, training up native Teachers, and preparing elementary works for the Heathen and the converts; or as Catechists, Schoolmasters, Printers, and Lay Settlers. The kind of books which each of these classes need are of course of a different description; nor can we now enter into minute and particular lists for each class. Our object will be sufficiently attained if one general list be furnished, far too large for any single missionary, but which may be at a principal Station, or from which may be selected what the particular circumstances of each class may require.

We cannot here give particular lists of those books which contain accounts of the country where the Missionary labours. One well competent to speak on the subject has said that no books give more minute information respecting Heathen countries, than the letters, journals, and other works of the Missionaries who have laboured to propagate the gospel.

After the lengthened lists already given, we need not go over again much of the same ground, but confine ourselves to those that are more specially appropriate.

The Missionary's Library.

(1) Missionary Works.

Adam's Religious World Displayed.
 Allen's Modern Judaism.
 Buchanan's Christian Researches.
 Buchanan's Apology for Missions.
 Burder's Missionary Anecdotes.
 Christian Knowledge Society Abstract.
 Crantz's Greenland.
 Danish Missions, 12mo. 1718.
 Douglas' Advancement of Society.
 Douglas' Hints on Missions.
 Fabricii Lux Evangelii.
 Faber's Pagan Idolatry.
 Holmes's Mission of United Brethren.
 Horne's Letters on Missions.
 Hough's Reply to Dubois.
 Jewish Expositor.
 Jones, Sir W. Discourses, 2 vol. 12mo.
 Judson's Burman Empire.
 Jowett's Researches, 2 vol.
 Lee's Mahomedan Controversy.
 Loskiel's Missions.
 Maracci's Alcoran.
 Missionary Register.
 Milne's Retrospect.
 Pratt's Propaganda.
 Proceedings of Societies.
 Church Missionary.
 Propagation of Gospel.
 Christian Knowledge.
 Baptist Missionary.
 London Missionary.
 Wesleyan Missionary.
 Scotch Missionary.
 United Brethren.
 Jewish Society.
 Sale's Koran.
 Townley's Answer to Dubois.
 Upham's History of Buddhism.
 Ward's Letters.
 Ward's Hindoos, 3 vol. 8vo.

(2) Dictionaries and Works of Reference.

An Encyclopædia.
 Ainsworth's Latin Dictionary.
 Brown's Dictionary of Bible.
 Buck's Theological Dictionary.
 Cruden's Concordance.
 Donnegan's Greek Lexicon.
 Edinburgh Gazetteer abridged.
 Golii Lexicon Arabicum.
 Johnson's English Dictionary, by Todd, 3 vol. 4to. or the Abridgement, 8vo.
 Lempriere's Classical Dictionary.
 Marsden's Malay Dictionary.

Morrison's Chinese Dictionary.
 Richardson's Persian Dictionary, by Johnson.
 Scapulae Lexicon.
 Walker's Pronouncing Dictionary.
 Watkins' Biographical Dictionary.
 Williams' Dictionary of all Religions.
 Williams' Missionary Gazetteer.
 Wilmet Lexicon Arabicum.
 Wilson's Sanscrit Dictionary.

(3.) Scriptural Works.

[The former lists to be referred to.]

Hebrew Bible.
 Hebrew Testament.
 Septuagint.
 Greek Testament.
 Vulgate.
 Horne's Introduction.
 Lewis' History of Translations.
 Burder's Orient. Customs, 4 vol.
 Harmer's Observations.
 Campbell on the Gospels.
 Scott's and Henry's Bible.
 Doddridge's Expositor.
 Boothroyd's Family Bible.
 Wyld's Sacred Geography.
 Neale's Sacred History.
 Watts' Scripture History.
 Bagster's Polyglot, folio.

(4.) Grammatical and Critical Works.

Lee's Sylloge Lib. Orient.
 Murray's Grammar, &c. 2 vol. 8vo.
 Smith's Grammar of Logic.
 Whateley's Logic.
 Walker's Key to Pronunciation.
 Blair's Rhetoric.
 Brerewood's Languages.
 Matthias' Greek Grammar.
 Lee's Hebrew Grammar.
 Richardson's Arabic Grammar.
 De Sacy Grammaire Arabe.
 De Sacy Chrestomathie Arabe.
 Jones' Persian Grammar by Lee.
 Wilkin's Sanscrit Grammar.
 Parkhurst's Greek Lexicon.
 Parkhurst's Hebrew Lexicon.
 Schleusner's Greek Lexicon, (see p. 449.)
 Simons' Hebrew Lexicon.
 Gesenius' Hebrew Lexicon, (p. 449.)
 Leigh's Critica Sacra.
 Taylor's Hebrew Concordance.
 Noldii Concordantiæ.

iii Concordantie.
 dii Concordantie.
 ton's Greek Article.
 ti Gnomon.
 son's Clavis Pentateuchi.
 xi Lyra Prophetica.
 on the Atonement.
 nopsis, 5 vol. fo.

5.) *Historical Works.*

t Universal History.
 s Roman Antiquities.
 anni Bibliotheca.
 t's Universal History.
 's Reformation.
 i Greek Church.
 i's History of Redemption.
 Church History.
 s Roman Empire, with Mil.
 Antidote.
 r of England.
 r of Jesuits, 2 vol. 8vo.
 s Rome.
 Greek Church.
 m's History of Persia.
 m's History of Central India.
 Mahomedanism.
 British India.
 m's Ecclesiastical History.
 s and Scott's Church History.
 's Greece.
 's Asia.
 's Africa.
 History of Council of Trent.
 x's Life of Mahomet.
 i Græcian Antiquities.
 on's Greek Church.
 x's Connection.
 s Connection.
 on Greek and Armenian
 thes.
 Ancient History.
 on's America.
 i Ancient and Modern Europe.
 rd's Connection.
 Greek Church.
 ni Canones et Decreta.
 Elements.
 's Josephus.

(6.) *Biography.*

Brainerd.
 Brown.
 Buchanan.
 Chamberlain.
 Fisk.
 Martyn.
 Newton.
 Jewell.
 Parsons.
 Ward.

(7.) *Geographical and Scientific Works.*

[The best accounts of the Particular Countries where the Missionary labours.]

Modern Traveller. Already 25 vol.
 Adam's Geography.
 Burchardt's Travels.
 Campbell's Africa, 2 vol.
 Ellis's Otaheite.
 Ellis's Sandwich Islands.
 Goldsmith's Geography.
 Harvard's Ceylon.
 Henderson's Iceland.
 Henderson's Russia.
 Latrobe's South Africa.
 Maundrell's Journey.
 Myers System, of Geogr. 2 vol. 4to.
 Shaw's Barbary.
 Winterbottom's Sierra Leone.
 Bacon's Works.
 Enfield's History of Philosophy.
 Pinnock's Catechisms.
 Library of Useful Knowledge.
 Joyce's Scientific Dialogues.
 Ferguson's Lectures.
 Ferguson's Astronomy.
 Heber's Journal.
 Goldsmith's Animated Nature.
 Philip's Mineralogy and Geology.

(8) *Books on Schools.*

Bell's Madras System.
 British and Foreign School Manuals.
 Wilson's Infant School.
 Plan of Adult School.
 Lloyd's Teacher's Manual.

(9) *Medical.*

Johnson on Tropical Climates.
 Thomas's Practice of Physic.
 Thompson's Dispensary.
 Bickersteth's (H.) Medical Hints.
 Cooper's Surgical Dictionary.
 Hooper's Medical Dictionary.
 Winterbottom's Medical Directions.

(10.) *Practical and Devotional Works.*

[For Ministerial, see the Curate's Library, p. 415, or Minister's Library.]

Homilies.
 Beveridge's Private Thoughts.
 Adam's Private Thoughts.
 Pascal's Private Thoughts.
 Owen on the Spirit.

Edwards on the Affections.
 Baxter's Reformed Pastor.
 Mrs. More's Essays on St. Paul.
 Hall's Works.

Hopkins's Works, with any of
 Beveridge's, Owen's, Baxter's,
 Leighton's, Doddridge's, Fuller's,
 Flavel's, Milner's, Romaine's,
 Newton's, Cecil's, Scott's, &c.

Ambrose's Looking to Jesus.
 Hymn Book.
 Psalm and Hymn Tunes.
 On Evidences generally, See pp.
 497—500.
 On the Roman Catholic Question,
 500—502.
 On the Church of England, p. 504.

Walchius furnishes a list of controversial writings with the Mahomedans; he gives an account of the Koran and its versions, of writings on the origin, progress, and doctrines of their religion, and of works in confutation of it. Martin Luther wrote several tracts against the Turks.

Under the term the Missionary's Library, the Author includes the consideration of BOOKS peculiarly requisite FOR THOSE LABOURING AMONG THE JEWS: a long neglected duty, in the discharge of which the church of Christ may entertain the liveliest hope of extended blessings: but he feels very incompetent to do justice to the subject.

A knowledge of the pure Hebrew language with the Chaldee and Syriac, is first requisite, and then of the Rabbinic or the language used by the Rabbins in the writings which they have composed. The Judeo Polish being a language much spoken by the Jews, is said to be more important even than the Rabbinic.

The following is a list of some books relating to the Jews. It will be obvious that a Jewish Missionary in his journeys cannot take these with him. His Bible is his library. But these and many more may be valuable at fixed stations.

List of Books on subjects connected with the Jews;

OR, WORKS MORE ESPECIALLY APPLICABLE TO THE JEWS.

Hebrew Bible.
 Hebrew-German Prophets and New Testament.
 Hebrew Testament.
 Judeo-Polish New Testament.
 Adam's History of the Jews.
 Adair's North American Indians.
 Ainsworth on Pentateuch and Psalms.

Allen's Modern Judaism.
 Allix's Judgment of Jewish Church.
 Alttingii Spes Israelis.
 Baanage's History of Jews.
 Buchanan's Researches.
 Brown's Jewish Antiquities.
 Buxtorf's Synagoga Judaica.
 Buxtorf's Lexicon Chaldaicum.

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| <p>rg's Mission to Jews.
de Republica.
1 Conversion of Judah, 2 vol.
n's Moses and Aaron.
ble.
* de Convincendis Judæis.
Address to the Jews.
's Jewish Antiquities.
is.
Dialogue with Trypho, by
n.
Expositor.
; Researches.
on the Messiah.
"s Collection of Testimonies.
Method with Jews.
Origines Hebrææ.
t's Works.
:hi Amica Collatio.
n's Hebrew Ritual.
n's Civil Government.</p> | <p>Maimonides Symbolum Fidei.
De Luc's Letter to the Jews.
Maundrell's Journey.
Mede's Works.
Maclaurin on Prophecies.
Owen on the Hebrews.
Philo Judæus.
Pocock's Works.
Relandi Antiquitates Sacre.
Sharp's Concessions of Jews and
Heathens.
Scott's Rabbi Crooll.
De Sacy sur les Samaritains.
Surenhusius Mischna.
Talib's Remarks on David Levi.
Townley's Reasons of Law of Moses.
Vitringa de Synagoga Vetere.
Wells's Scripture Geography.
Witsii Miscellanea Sacra.
Witsii Egyptiaca.
Wotton's Jewish Tradition.</p> |
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There are extensive Commentaries by Jewish Rabbies. Mr. mentions the Rabbins, Solomon Jarchi or Raschi, um Aben-Ezra, David Kimchi, Levi Ben Gersham, Aaron lihu, Isaac Abarbanel, Solomon Abenmelech, Moses Ben n or Maimonides, as held in the highest estimation by the

Babylonish Talmud, with the comments of Jarchi and nides occupies twelve volumes, folio; the Jerusalem Talmud ne volume.

work of Ugolino is a prodigious instance of human labour, published at Venice, in 34 volumes, folio, 1744 to 1769. e is, 'The Treasure of Sacred Antiquities, embracing the works of the most famous men, in which the manners, laws, tes, sacred and civil rites of the Ancient Hebrews are illus-' It is described as a work eminently useful and necessary illustration of both Testaments, and of sacred and profane gy.

chius mentions several Jewish books as containing the of their faith. Vol. I. p. 301, 302, of his Bibliotheca. is a considerable list of writings in controversies with p. 857—888. Luther wrote several tracts against them. also answered some of their objections, and many converted have written Treatises for the conversion of their fellow-ymen still remaining in darkness.

re are some valuable remarks in the Christian Review, Vol. 18, 58, and 154—172, on the subject of the Jews, and Jewish cure.

labours for the conversion of the Jews, the Old ment gives the Christian Missionary a vast tage. He has there all the elements of what he s to convey.

It is important to show not only how the facts of the New Testament tally with the prophecies or types of the Old, but also how the doctrinal and experimental language of the New Testament saints accords with that of the Old Testament saints. The accomplishment of prophecies may convince his understanding, the remarkable harmony of Christian doctrine may enlighten his mind, while that of Christian experience may touch his heart. The correspondence in doctrine of the two Testaments in all its leading parts is very striking. The fall, the mode of recovery, mediation, atonement, election, sanctification, the future state, and the plurality of persons in the one God are all in their elements in the Old Testament, as they are in their developement in the New.¹ Similarly striking is the harmony of Christian experience ; compare for instance

Job xl. 4. and 1 Tim. i. 15, 16.
Psalm cxix. 35. and Rom. vii. 22.
Psalm xxxiv. 8. 1 Peter ii. 3.
Psalm li. 10--12. John iii. 9--8.
Ezek. xxxvi. 26. 2 Cor. v. 17.

Isaiah vi. 5--7. and Rom. vii. 24, 25.
Isaiah lxiv. 6. and Phil. iii. 9.
Habakkuk ii. 4. and John iii. 36.
Habakkuk ii. 18. and Phil. iv. 4.

The great thing wanted for all Ministers and Missionaries is indeed something far beyond, and far higher than learning, a broken, contrite, believing, and loving heart, every day feeling its own need of the Messiah, and experiencing the blessings of his grace, and thence longing to tell others of Him, who *healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.*

The rightly instructed Missionary will after all studies feel that his grand hope of usefulness is far beyond man's teaching. He will especially seek to be filled with the Holy Ghost. Barnabas was a good

¹ Mendham's *Clavis Apostolica* will furnish some good hints on this point.

man and full of the Holy Ghost, and so much people was added unto the Lord. The Holy Ghost is the true and effective spring of a holy character, of a faithful minister, and of a devoted missionary. From the Holy Ghost comes eminent usefulness, comfort in life, joy in death, and meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. The true Missionary above every thing else desires this grace, and walks in the Spirit, and fears to grieve Him. All languages and sciences which can be acquired, all external or internal qualifications, all advantages which man can communicate, or his own best industry or talent can procure, are all unprofitable, but as they are under the influence of Him who guides into all truth, and who is *the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.* When upon the Missionaries, as on our Divine and Almighty Saviour, the Spirit of the Lord is poured out, and they are sent of the Holy Ghost, they will then be most effectually prepared to be *workmen that need not be ashamed*; then will they, in their measure, be *anointed to preach the gospel to the poor*; then will they be sent and qualified, as their Heavenly Master shall be pleased to prosper them, *to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*¹

¹ The closing remarks were part of an Address by the Author to the Students of the Church Missionary Society. See Appendix II. of the Proceedings of the Society in its 25th year, p. 223-4.

CHAPTER XVIII.

HINTS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THEOLOGY.

LORD BACON has remarked, ‘ We find no track in the whole region of divinity that is absolutely deserted or uncultivated, so great has the diligence of men been either in sowing wheat, or tares.’ He then notices four things as desirable in his day, and at that time deficient in divinity.

(1.) ‘ The history of prophecy, or the accomplishment of divine predictions to serve as a guide to the interpretation of prophecies.’ This has been attempted, with different measures of success, by many writers on prophecy ; Mede, Bishops Newton, Halifax, and Hurd, Faber, Davison, and Woodhouse, are especially important. Keith’s work, recently published, is a valuable addition to former publications.

(2.) The moderator in divinity, or the true use of human reason in the business of revelation.’ Boyle, Norris, and Watts have written on this subject, as have others, some of whom have unduly exalted the powers of reason.¹

(3.) The degrees of unity in religion adjusted with a view to preserve the peace of the church.’ This subject has also been fully discussed since Bacon’s time, by Bishop Davenant, Baxter, Bishop Taylor, and many others.

(4.) ‘ The first flowings of scripture, or a set of short, sound, and judicious notes on particular texts,

¹ There are some good remarks on this subject, in a sermon in Dr. Ryland’s Memorials, vol. ii. p. 19.

tending to use and practice.' On this deficiency he farther observes, ' That if the choice and best of those observations upon texts of scripture which have been made dispersedly in sermons within this island of Britain, by the space of these forty years and more, leaving out the largeness of exhortations and applications, had been set down in a continuance, it had been the best work in divinity which had been written since the apostles' times.' There have been several smaller tracts and evangelical and devotional works of this nature, but nothing that seems exactly to meet Bacon's idea. Stackhouse's *Body of Divinity* was intended to supply this defect, but by no means meets the want of which Bacon speaks.

It is with diffidence that the Author would submit any hints, but, knowing how useful a suggestion may be in leading to that which is valuable, and hoping, by this means, he may assist in giving a stimulus to the efforts of others, he ventures to make the following remarks.

The lapse of time has rendered works desirable, if not needful, of a kindred character with others more eminently useful in the times when they were originally published.

Baxter's *Call to the Unconverted* and Alleine's *Alarm* have been useful to thousands and tens of thousands in past days, and are still valuable in a considerable degree, but we need some modern works, with a similar strength of appeal, depth of piety, and force of application, which might be better adapted to the present state of our language and manners.

Hooker's *Ecclesiastical Polity* has furnished, for nearly two hundred years, an invaluable defence of the Church to studious men; but we want a popular

work of the like sound, judicious, and evangelical character, for the establishment of the young and laymen in general.

In Fry's History of the Church of Christ in general, we have in one volume a history of the Church at large; but we yet want, in a single volume, a history of the Church in our own country to the present time.

After all that has been done, do we not still want a Commentary for families and for the poor? as popular as Hawker's, but far more scriptural and accurate in exposition; as lively as Henry's, but not so voluminous; as sound as Scott, but more accessible and familiar; as ample in selections as D'Oyly and Mant, but in a larger degree from evangelical sources, and more devotional, simple, and spiritual; as applicatory as Adam on Matthew, with more explanation and experimental matter?

While one sacrament has had a superabundance of publications, the other, that on *baptism*, has been too much neglected. Mr. Budd's book has, in some degree, supplied the defect; but invaluable as are its incidental topics, it is too discursive exactly to answer that which seems desirable,—a practical treatise on the nature, use, and due improvement of baptism. At least there seems room for another treatise, equally practical and devotional, and yet exclusively connected with the ordinance.¹

¹ Since this was written, Mr. Irving has published his Treatise. The Author has not read it. Matthew Henry's Treatise on Baptism is too little known, and in a great measure answers to the desired character, with a particular reference to Infant Baptism. It is not included in his works, and is only an abridgement of a large Treatise, left in manuscript, and still in the library of a Dissenting Academy at Daventry.

The Author has been more than once urged to write a treatise on visiting the poor and the sick, which notwithstanding Stonehouse's Treatise, is a duty not yet perhaps sufficiently illustrated. It is a general duty incumbent on all Christians as well as ministers, and involves many important practical considerations.

An index of all the texts on which sermons have been published to the present time is wanted. Cooke's edition of Letsome's Preacher's Assistant is now scarce and dear, yet it was published nearly fifty years since, did not contain many older sermons and treatises, and might now be advantageously enlarged by subsequent works.

Many very valuable old books remained unknown and unprofitable for want of fresh editions. Much has been done within the last 20 years to bring them into circulation by reprints. There are yet however many works that it would be advantageous to have reprinted. A few are subjoined as specimens.

Alsop's Anti-sozzo.	Godly Letters of the Martyrs.
James Blair on the Sermon on the Mount.	Harmony of the Confessions.
Brown on Prayer.	Lamothe on Inspiration.
Manning's Works.	Morning Exercises.
Cruso's Works.	Several of S. Ward's Tracts.
Frank's Christ the Sum and Substance.	Stillingfleet on the Satisfaction of Christ.

Extracts from the general writings of eminent authors, with the best pieces of larger works would be very useful. Dr. Wilson of Southampton has shown this in his selections from Owen, Leighton, and Hopkins, and Mr. Young, in his from Baxter and Owen.

A work of reference to books on subjects in religion, such as is comprehended in the Second Part of Watt's Bibliotheca, and Wilkin's list in his Gift of Preaching, only more minute, referring not merely to books,

but to the pages where the subjects are treated, would much facilitate studies on particular parts of Theology.

A more close connexion and a more ready interchange of publications among the Protestant churches is to be desired. Some excellent works have now been printed in America, that would promote Theology if circulated in this country. Persons residing in London have not that full interchange of religious publications even with Edinburgh and Dublin which might be useful. Might not also more be done to facilitate both the knowledge of such works as are sound and evangelical, published by our Protestant brethren on the continent, and the more readily obtaining these works in this country.

The five following works were suggested by a friend, as yet deficient.

1. *A Practical Treatise on the perfections and attributes of God*, as displayed in Jesus Christ. All false religion takes its rise in ignorance and forgetfulness of God. The *sensualist* making for himself a God who cannot see, or hear, or understand, or avenge the hourly sins which he commits, gives himself up to his sinful indulgences. The *thoughtless* man making to himself a God, in whose character indifference or a weak compassion is the chief ingredient, refuses to see or believe his infinite purity and perfect justice, and so is unconcerned about him. The *self-righteous* fancies to himself his idol, one that is pleased with exterior appearances, and will accept such as a palliation and excuse for sins committed, and thus neglecting the interior disposition, he abounds in mere formalities. The *Pelagian* losing sight of the everlasting and supreme government of God, vainly con-

ceives that the obtaining of heavenly bliss is not supremely directed by the sovereign will of the Most High, but mainly depends on the choice and efforts of the creature. The *Antinomian* contemplating his sovereignty and justice in the abstract, does not duly regard his holiness, and in his selfish admiration of love displayed to sinners in pardon, forgets the equal love displayed in purifying the pardoned, by him who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Charnock on the Attributes is too metaphysical, and Bates too much confined to one point, to answer the purposes of a practical, familiar Treatise. Wishart has much that is valuable.

2. *A clear and succinct view of the principles of Christianity held by the primitive Christians, and its developement in their lives*, showing its identity with Protestantism, and marking with precision and distinctness the steps by which the corruptions of Romanism were introduced. Echard's Ecclesiastical History, Cave's primitive Christianity, Reeve's Apologies of the Fathers, Weisman's and Milner's Church History, and the controversies with the Papists would furnish some materials for the work here contemplated.

3. *A History of the people of Israel from Abraham to the present day*, as an interesting and instructive narrative, elucidatory of scriptural truths, for the use of youth, in one small volume. Josephus, Basnage, Hannah Adams and others, would assist in this.

4. *A Brief Sketch of the plan of Salvation*, or God's way of bringing a sinner to Heaven, in its origin, its tendency, its design, and its influence, as an exposition of Rom. viii. 29, 30. or of the 17th Article; not as a

matter of controversy, but of devotion and practical influence.

5. *Lives of real saints*, not Roman Catholic, but Christian; a Biographical Dictionary, in one volume: distinguishing individuals not by their rank in the eyes of the world, but by the services which God has enabled them to render to his church. Clarke, Wordsworth, Middleton, and separate lives would furnish more than ample materials.

Would it not be well for authors to consider to what books God has given the most influence in producing extensively a spirit of religion. If I were to name twelve works in our own language, I should name

Adam's Private Thoughts.
Alleine's Alarm.
Baxter's Call.
Baxter's Saint's Rest.
Beveridge's Private Thoughts.
Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress.

Doddridge's Rise and Progress.
Hervy's Theron and Aspadio.
Law's Serious Call.
Milner's History of the Church.
Scott's Force of Truth.
Wilberforce's Practical View.

These are books not written in the spirit of controversy, but in the spirit of love, with the single object of practically advancing the spiritual welfare of man. It is evident that such writers seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. We want more of such invaluable works.

There are several similar works that greatly help to maintain a spirit of religion, such as Corbet's *Self-Employment in Secret*, Kempis's *Imitation of Christ*, many of Owen's and Baxter's works, Newton's *Letters*, Scott's *Commentary*, Leighton on *Peter*, and the like. Thomas à Kempis has been eminently useful; but there are some drawbacks; it is devotional to a high degree, but still with some tincture of mysticism.

and a slight infusion of Popery, and grounded upon very obscure views of gospel doctrine. The dependence of sanctification on justification, which is so plainly revealed, (Rom. v. vi.) is but obscurely exhibited in Thomas à Kempis; yet is the Saviour manifestly the spring-head of that devotional unction with which the work abounds, and hence its extensive usefulness.

An account of Foreign Works, and translations of extracts from them, on the plan of Erskine's Sketches of Church History would be interesting and useful. A collection and translation of the authorised Catechisms of different Churches, similar to the Confessions, would be valuable for reference.

Larger works in Theology would be very useful could they be accomplished. The Author gives the following suggestions.

A Bibliotheca, like Dupin's, on more fixed principles of Analysis and Review, by Protestants of evangelical principles, and continued to the present time. Such a work might occupy twenty volumes, 4to. and would, with a good Index for constant reference, be a Library of Divinity, of invaluable use.

A Bibliotheca, or account of books like Walchius, but in English, continued to the present day.

An Introduction to Theology at large, similar in nature to Mr. Horne's Critical Introduction to the Scriptures, but embracing general Theology, as well as what directly relates to the Scriptures; would be of great advantage.

A Synopsis in English, like Poole's in Latin, including the subsequent criticisms, but excluding the infidelity of Neologianism.

An improved Polyglot, with all the advantages

of the research and learning of the last two centuries.¹

The History of the Protestant Churches of Christ from the reformation to the present time, fully developed, would furnish a most instructive and practically useful work. There are ample materials for it on a larger scale than it is possible to give in a general History of the Church. May another Milner be raised up to accomplish such a work !

We still want a more comprehensive History of the Church of Christ, combining the learning and research of Mosheim, and the piety and evangelical decision, and glow of Joseph Milner. Mr Conybeare thought that Weisman's *Historia Sacra* supplied this want. The Author has been much pleased with the learning, judgment, and piety marked in what he has read of this work ; but it is still in Latin, and he has doubted whether it has sufficiently the popularity and interest of a continued history, to supply the deficiency noticed. He has read too little to speak with confidence : a translation of that work would be serviceable to the church.

Works in Foreign Languages remain very much unknown and unprofitable, as far as it relates to any general and practical influence on the theology of our country. There are some admirable works in Greek and Latin which might be advantageously translated.

Thus we want, in about eight or twelve thick octavo volumes, a publication of the most practical works of the Fathers, translated into English. There are

¹ It is much to be regretted, that my friend, the Rev. J. Pratt's projected Polyglot was never completed. It would have been a most convenient work for Ministers.

dressess of the High Priest, priests, and Levites, models of the temple furniture, and of the tabernacle, specimens of the coins mentioned, the mode of preparing books and ancient manuscripts. Such a museum would be both interesting and instructive, and give just ideas of many things of which persons are now comparatively ignorant, and thus many scriptural allusions would be placed in a new and beautiful light.

Every thing that tends to promote family piety is of the utmost value. The regular maintenance of family prayer and instruction, singing in the family, catechetical instruction of children and servants, parental duties; these and other things call for more helps even than we now have. Family sermons are a valuable species of composition, and we have few animated, lively, pungent, and brief addresses suited for this purpose. Adam's Exposition of Matthew is a specimen of what we mean. Boys' Exposition on the New Testament is a series of original and suitable family sermons, generally on the most striking feature of a chapter, and in this view well adapted for family improvement. A similar exposition by him on the Old Testament is to be desired. The multiplication of such short, striking and original works would be exceedingly serviceable for the furtherance of family piety.

There are several particular books of scripture of which we have no English evangelical and spiritual exposition, and many of the older expositions are getting very scarce, and can hardly be procured.

For the accomplishment of many of these works, a combination of pious, wise, and learned men is absolutely necessary. A Bibliotheca, the translations of Fathers, Reformers, and modern Latin authors, the

history of Theology, &c. could not be undertaken by one or two individuals. Men of the world are wise in calling forth talents and learning, and preparing by a combination of effort, Reviews, Magazines, Encyclopedias, &c. Religion might be equally benefited by a similar union of men possessing knowledge and piety, for promoting its far higher, its infinitely more important objects.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE RIGHT APPLICATION OF RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE.

DIVINE knowledge is intended to promote a right state of mind, with a suitable course of conduct. There are two points of main importance in study, one is to get just ideas into the mind, and the other wisely to bring them forth in their season with all their beneficial influence. It is not laying up the bale in the warehouse, but dividing and distributing it as it is required, that enriches the tradesman.

The apostle in the charge to Timothy to pursue *reading, exhortation, and doctrine*, or teaching, shows this due order; first to acquire and then to disperse knowledge. We too often mistake in many ways. We begin to disperse before we have acquired; or we acquire, and never disperse to others; or we misapply when we disperse. How needful here again is Divine guidance and assistance.

All our acquirements are valuable according to the

tions existing that would much assist in this; there are valuable works never yet rendered into English. We also want, in about the same size, translations of the most valuable parts of the works of *Foreign Reformers*, with the *Corpus Consensuum*. Again, there are many excellent works of recent times, which would be generally useful, if translated and published. Such as

Calvin's *Tactica Sacra*.
 Pastor Evangelicus.
 written on the Colossians.
 Instructions.
 Philologia Sacra.
 Schlicht's *Theologia Theoretica*
 et Practica.
 Theologia Christiana.

Seckendorf's *Historia Lutheranismi*.
 Spanheim's Works.
 Stapfer's *Institutiones*.
 Turretine's *Institutiones*.
 Usher's *Latin Works*.
 Witell's *Miscellanea Sacra*.
 Weismann's *Historia*.

These are mentioned for illustration: multitudes of similar works might be added now only subsisting in Latin.—Similarly valuable works might doubtless be translated from the French, Dutch, German, Italian, and other languages.

A History of Theology at large would be a valuable work. The Author has in this work attempted to give some outlines, but we want not merely a single paper, but a considerable work of several volumes: a work which might take a far larger and more complete survey of the whole subject. In such a work the Historian might notice more in detail the character of each particular writer, and the treatises which he published; the character of successive æras, and the progress of scriptural light. He might make practical reflections, and deduce such useful conclusions as would much tend to advance Divinity. The plans of clerical, parochial, and lending libraries have been fairly and fully tried, and followed up, and their greatest usefulness attained. Dr. Bray did

A common abuse of knowledge is to REST SATISFIED WITH IT as the proper end of study, rather than the means of usefulness. If we have attained real knowledge, we are too apt to suppose the object of pursuit is secured, and we may indolently enjoy it. But this is to look far below the true happiness of the creature. Religious truth is only and eminently valuable as it brings us near to God, and leads to a more wise and devoted engagement of every faculty in his service. We must no more say of our knowledge, than of our property, *Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years, take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.* We are responsible for it as a talent received, and we can only be happy as we are diffusing its blessings to others.

Another great and general abuse is, to foster A SPIRIT OF PRIDE. Self-elevation is too often the great stimulus to study, and as we make attainments in knowledge, we grow in self-sufficiency, and swell with self-conceit. Where

in the manner of knowing. What therefore is the mode of knowing? What, unless to know in what order, with what affection, and to what end you should know? In what *order*? that should be first which most tends to salvation. With what *affection*? to be most ardent in that which most strongly excites love. *To what end*? To study, not for vain glory or curiosity, but only for edifying yourself, or your neighbour. There are who wish to know only for the sake of knowing, and it is a *base curiosity*. There are who wish to know that they may be known, and it is a *base vanity*, who do not escape the satyrist, "Scire tuum nihil est nisi te scire hoc sciat alter." And there are those who wish to know, that they may sell their knowledge for money or honour, and this is a *base gain*. But there are those who wish to know, that they may edify, and this is *charity*, and also, there are those who wish to know, that they may be edified, and this is *prudence*. Of all these, the two last only are not found in the abuse of knowledge, because they wish to understand for this end, that they may do good.¹

¹ Bernardi Opera Tom. 2. p. 62. 1541.

knowledge increases without conversion of heart, that pride which is natural to man, like a disease in the constitution, gathers strength from wholesome food. This disease manifests itself in various ways; sometimes under the garb of humility; sometimes in despising, depressing, or undervaluing the attainments of others. In such a case as Warburton, what arrogance mingles with his learning! how he tramples in his haughtiness over his opponents. The Christian, inspired with his Saviour's Spirit, had rather be trampled upon, than trample upon others. We sometimes see the wise of this world, with haughty contempt cast off God and his truth, with such expressions, 'I am above all that nonsense'—'It is cant and hypocrisy'—'Those are your saints.' This may now gain them the reputation of great wisdom and discernment; but the scene of this world's glory soon passes away: the hours of sickness and sorrow, the time of death and the judgment-day are at hand; and how will they appear before Christ, at his coming? Christian reader, let us remember, *Pride goes before destruction*: and what a fall will it be to the haughty mind, to awake to shame and everlasting contempt. This pride leads some to the ostentatious display of knowledge (Jer. ix. 23). 'It should be our concern,' says Francks, 'to guard against vain glory, in a business wherein the glory of God should be our only object.' We may learn even religion, that we may be able to talk; and we speak of what we know, that we may be admired, and have credit given to us for wisdom, sagacity, and learning. With that deep self-knowledge, humility, and self-distrust, which mark his Private Thoughts, Mr. Adam suggests to his own mind the question, Whether his reading and

person of knowledge had not rather a view to talking, than his own private use, or the benefit of others. *This talk of the lips* is of little real profit; it *tendeth only to poverty*. It increases not the spiritual riches of those who hear or those who speak. There is always a temptation to make a parade of what we know. *THE GRATIFICATION OF VAIN CURIOSITY* is another abuse connected with the acquisition of knowledge. Is it not usual for some to estimate the value of knowledge, not so much by its intrinsic worth, as by its remoteness from common view, and the pains with which it has been acquired? From mere curiosity, without any specific good end in view, men may ransack all sorts and kinds of learning, and enter into the most hidden recesses of antiquity, and yet labour to no profit.² Nay, they may carry their researches into the most holy things (Col. ii. 18.), and attempt to pry into things both that are above their comprehension and hidden from their view, from similar motives and with the like result. Great learning may be the mere self-indulgence of the intellect; the revelry of mental gratification, the mere intoxication of the powers of the understanding. Precious time may be spent over mere learned trifles, extensive learning and vast powers of mind be wasted, or serious error, under the plausible cover of learning, be diffused and strengthened. Men may read, only to become sceptics and latitudinarians.

¹ See his Works, vol. ii. 139.

² Leighton says, in his First Lecture, 'It is not my intention to perplex you with curious questions, and lead you through the thorny paths of disputation; but if I had any share of that excellent art, it would be my delight to direct your way through the easy and pleasant paths of righteousness to a life of endless felicity, and be myself your companion in that blessed pursuit.'

Another serious abuse of knowledge is to TURN IT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF ERROR. Satan tempts us, at many sacrifices, to seek to know good and evil, and then endeavours to turn all the knowledge which man acquires to the maintenance of evil. The whole system of Popery is knowledge misapplied and used against the truth. Few have exceeded, in acquisitions of various kinds, the Jesuits of the Roman Church. Some of the Socinians, who deny the Lord that bought them, have had much critical skill. The Lord thus shows, in the strongest light, that a man may have skill, talent, and industry, and yet fall short of the truth; he must have also divine grace giving him a humble and teachable spirit, and guiding him, that he may be led into the truth, or the result of his studies will be vain and unprofitable.

Men begin at the wrong end; instead of humbling themselves to become fools in their own eyes, that they may be wise (1 Cor. iii. 18); they profess themselves to be wise, without seeking to be taught of God, and so, in reality they become fools (Rom. i. 22); and the mysteries of the gospel, which are revealed to others who have the simplicity of babes, are hid from them (Matt. xi. 25). There is considerable danger in reading erroneous books. The spirit of a man gets a taste, as it were, of the mind of the authors with whom he is most conversant, just as the stream gets tinged with the soil through which it passes. Infidel, Socinian, Roman Catholic, or controversial works, may thus communicate a taint of their respective errors, to those who dwell much in such regions. Let us all remember the direction, *Buy the truth, and sell it not*. It is worth every thing we have to procure it, and it should not be parted with for any worldly consideration. Many

things will be offered to tempt you to part with it; 'love of ease, applause, favour of men—the titles of a sensible man, a liberal man, no enthusiast, no bigot—worldly gain and promotion;' but it is a losing bargain to part with truth and maintain error at any price.

Another abuse of knowledge is when it FOSTERS BITTERNESS AGAINST OUR FELLOW CREATURES. If any differ from us, and maintain that difference by arguments opposed to our own, and tending to the undervaluing of our learning, how apt are we to think hardly of them, to disparage them, to suggest uncharitable reasons for their maintenance of such opinions, and, where we have the power, to deal severely with them. Theological hatred has passed into a proverb. Nor is it wonderful that, in proportion to the magnitude of things disputed, there should be an earnestness in contending for them, and in unchristian hearts, an excess of an unchristian spirit. This should be checked in every practicable method. It was a good plan of Antonius at the Halle University, while showing how to rebut error, to make a point of being very careful not to use harsh and unkind expressions, lest his auditors should be inspired with any bitterness against an opponent. In order to remove all such contentions as partook of hatred and selfishness, he laid open the depth of our natural corruption, from whence proceed all manner of delusion; depraved reason, impregnated with the spirit of self-love, and raised up by unmortified passions, being generally the principle from which has sprung, and still springs up, such a multitude of erroneous notions. Hence he taught that none should overvalue himself on account of some better apprehensions in matters of religion, since the seed of the most abominable heresies lies

harking in every word, and if not timely restrained by a principle of grace, is ready to break out into error of every kind.¹

Learning is also abused when it is made an excuse for ~~useless~~ eccentricity and peculiarity. Diligent students sometimes want acquaintance with the common affairs of the world, and excuse themselves for a disregard of the ordinary observances and proprieties of social life, by their superiority in literary attainments. Christianity, however, meeting every failure of man, has its beautiful directions, *be courteous, honour all men; whatsoever things are lovely as well as those which are honest, just, and pure; whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue; and if there be any praise, think on these things.* The remarks of a statesman (the Duke of Newcastle) though only bringing forward worldly motives, suggest some important hints here. He says, 'Knowledge alone is not our proper happiness. Men of deep research and of curious inquiry should just be put in mind not to mistake what they were doing. But we may all remember, that as the love of letters may make us unsociable, so the love of society may make us illiterate. The want of discretion and prudence has ruined more men of learning and genius than the time would allow me to mention. Without this sobriety of intellect nothing is strong, nothing is great. Without this prudence, without this discernment of time and circumstance, and the habit of regularity, without an attention to the decencies of society, and of common life; and of the principles by which all men however gifted must indiscriminately be conducted, all our

¹ See Francke's *Pietas Hallensis*, p. 292.

attainments are nothing worth : they will never procure us esteem and respectability among men. The world will but smile at such scholars, and ministers (of the state), when called upon to promote them, will tell you not without reason, *they are not producible.*¹ The Christian student will however from far higher motives than esteem and respectability among men, give no needless offence in any thing, and seek not to please himself, but all men, to their edification.

One more abuse may be noticed, that of OVER-VALUING PARTICULAR PARTS OF RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE. Thus some press attention to languages, some to criticism, some to evidences, some to doctrines, some to practice, beyond the fair proportion due to each, and attending almost exclusively to one thing, undervalue what they do not follow. Each point has its relative value, as bearing upon one grand result ; and it is the part of wisdom to attend to each according to its real worth and connexion with the whole. Undoubtedly our particular talents, bent of mind, opportunities, and occasions, may call for peculiar attention to some distinct branch of religion, and when duly pursued, there is an advantage in this to the general advancement of the whole ; yet we may pursue that branch to the disparagement of other even more important. Let each have its scriptural proportion of regard, and let us not spend all our time in settling various readings for instance, to the neglect of Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Having thus shown the abuses, a few observations may be added on the RIGHT APPLICATION OF KNOW-

¹ See the Quotation in the Pursuits of Literature, p. 451.

LEDES. The right end of study is not to raise us on an eminence to be admired; to enable us to swell with our own fancied elevation; to delight or enrich ourselves with our own intellectual stores; to gain promotion and worldly advantage. Success here may be an injury; and of students pursuing and gaining only such ends we are compelled to say *verily they have their reward.* Solomon gives a striking estimate from experience of the vanity of misapplied knowledge—*my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge, and I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly; I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.* For in much wisdom is much grief, and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow. Eccles. i. 16, 18. How infinitely superior are the true ends, the illumination of the mind with divine and saving truth, the consequent purification of the heart and life, fresh abilities of usefulness to our fellow creatures, a fresh revenue of praise and glory to God, and a growing communion with him, and preparation for heavenly and everlasting communion hereafter. When there is a natural taste for intellectual improvement, it is most important to have the knowledge of evangelical theology, or as the Apostle would call it, *the excellence of the knowledge of Jesus Christ* (Phil. iii. 8) set before us, as the great means by which the Divine Spirit raises us to our highest happiness. Let us then more distinctly direct the student to the right application of his acquirements.

The first use of theological study is to bring you **ACQUAINTED WITH GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.** Theology of the right kind, duly improved, leads directly to constant communion with God. It embraces Christian doctrines to arrive at the knowledge of God,

and Christian rules to direct our walk with him and before him. They are just sentiments of Bishop Taylor, when fairly interpreted, 'Theology is rather a divine life than a divine knowledge.' When all books are read, and all arguments are examined, and all authorities alleged, nothing can be found to be true that is unholy.' *Acquaint thyself with God that thou mayest be at peace with him.* Real growth in divine knowledge gives a fuller insight into the character and glories of our Creator, our relation to him, the blessings which we receive from him, and the duties which we owe to him, as our reconciled Father in Jesus Christ.

By the fall we lost the knowledge of God. Divine knowledge fulfils its highest end, when it leads us to Jesus Christ, by whom we are recovered from the ruinous effects of that first sin.

Dr. Owen, pressing the importance of the knowledge of Christ gives some valuable suggestions respecting the scope of human learning. 'The particular end of literature, though not observed by many, men's eyes being fixed on false ends, which compel them in their progress to wander from the object, is none other but to remove some part of the curse which is come upon us by sin. Learning is the product of the souls struggling with the curse for sin. Adam, at his first creation, was completely furnished with all that knowledge (excepting only things not then in being, &c.) as far as it lies in a needful tendency to the utmost end of man, which we now press after. There was no straitness, much less darkness on his understanding, that should make him sweat for a way to improve, and make out those general conceptions of things which he had. All this being lost by sin, a multiplication of tongues also being brought in as a curse for an

after rebellion, the whole design of learning is but to disentangle the soul from this issue of sin. Ignorance, darkness, and blindness is come upon the understanding; acquaintance with the works of God, spiritual and natural, is lost, strangeness of communication is given by multiplication of tongues. Tumultuating of passions and affections with innumerable darkening prejudices are also come upon us. To remove and take this away, to disentangle the mind in its reasonings, to recover an acquaintance with the works of God, to subduct the soul from under the effects of the curse of division of tongues, is the aim and tendency of literature.'

Dr. Owen then shows the insufficiency of mere learning for the attaining of these ends, and the swelling pride of men of great literary attainments, asking, are we blind also? and observes, 'He that has attained to the greatest height of literature, yet if he has nothing else, if he have not Christ, is as much under the curse of blindness, ignorance, stupidity, and dullness, as the poorest silliest soul in the world. The more abilities the mind is furnished with, the more it strengthens itself to act its enmity against God. All that it receives does but help it to set up high thoughts and imaginations against the Lord Christ.' Owen adds, 'I hope I shall not need to add any thing to clear myself for not giving a due esteem and respect unto literature, my intendment being only to cast it down at the feet of Jesus Christ, and to set the crown upon his head.'¹

The glory of religious knowledge, then is Christ Jesus, the Son of God made man for our salvation:

¹ See his Works, Vol. x. pp. 137, 138.

to know Him, *the way, the truth, and the life*. As Leighton, in his usual happy strain remarks, 'You, then, that are gazing on vanity, be persuaded to turn your eyes this way and behold this lasting wonder, this Lord of life dying ! But the most, alas ! want a due eye for this object. It is the eye of faith alone that looks aright on him, and is daily discovering new worlds of excellency and delight in this crucified Saviour ; that can view him daily as hanging on the cross, without the childish gawdy help of a crucifix, and grow in the knowledge of that love that passeth knowledge, and rejoice itself in frequent thinking and speaking of him, instead of those idle and vain thoughts, at the best, and empty discourses, wherein they most delight and wear out the day. What is all knowledge but painted folly, in comparison of this ? See 1 Peter. ii. 24.—If knowledge lead us not to Christ for ourselves, and to magnify Christ for others, it does nothing for us. Its great use is to discover God to man, by Christ Jesus, and thus to lead us to constant communion with God. No theology was more profound than that which Enoch attained when he walked with God.¹

Religious knowledge is, to be used, not merely for accumulating the sentiments of others, but also for

¹ An apparent difficulty in a sentence of our Lord's leads to a most important truth. John xvi. 23. *In that day ye shall ask (or question) me nothing, Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask (or pray) the Father in my name, he will give it you.* In the day when they should have fuller light, and had not need to put the questions (v. 19) which he had been meeting, still it would be needful to abound in prayer. Times of light and knowledge should be times of prayer; and the true use of knowledge is to lead us to much prayer; to high and holy intercourse with our heavenly Father.

ENLARGING AND EXTENDING THE POWERS OF OUR MIND. The influence of the well-directed study of divine truth, is most important in enlightening the understanding, and regulating the judgment. It gives a correct taste, and enables us to discern and approve the things that are most excellent. There can be no reason why a spiritual man, as well as others, should not improve the powers of his mind, and there are many why he should. Every thing that strengthens his powers of mind, gives him advantage for the deeper and more meditative study of sacred truth, a greater capacity under the divine blessing for the intelligent reception of it, and for a more established maintenance of it for his own comfort. Eph. iv. 19.

Those who have watched the operations of the mind will have observed, that other mens' thoughts give rise to fresh views of truth in our own minds. Let these, where scriptural and useful, be carefully retained and used, cultivated and employed for the glory of God and the good of others. Theology, like prayer, should be inwrought. James v. 16. The mere transcript of the ideas of others will always have the defects of speaking a foreign language, with which we are but partially acquainted; we can never give the sentiments in full force and beauty. But let us make what we learn our own, let us meditate upon it, digest it, and incorporate it with our own mind, and it will become natural and easy, weighty, powerful, and original.

Another true application of knowledge is to **ASSIST US TO A HOLY CONDUCT.** Let us be careful that our knowledge is not only rational, but **PRACTICAL**; not only clear, but **VIVIFYING**. It is not the accuracy but the vitality of knowledge that influences the heart to present duty, and guides into the enjoyment of

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present privilege. It must be *the light of life* (John viii. 12.) else the light that is in us is darkness, and how great is that darkness! (Matt. vi. 23.) How affecting to see knowledge so often unaccompanied with vitality, no impression of divine influence, no perception of spiritual things, no enjoyment of heavenly consolation. We would not indeed disparage rational knowledge. It is indispensable as a medium of communicating the more excellent blessing, and without some measure of it, there could be no natural capacity for the reception of spiritual truth. As a foundation may be without a superstructure, but not a superstructure without a foundation. But while we admit its necessity, we deny its sufficiency. It is only the door, the entrance to that better knowledge, which is sufficient as well as necessary—that knowledge that is the effect of divine influence, and introduces us to a vital union with our God and Saviour (1 John v. 20.) O let us ever remember the emptiness of all stores of knowledge short of this, and let us seek for it as efficacious, transforming into His image, and making us meet for His presence, Who is Light, and in Whom is *no darkness at all*. All doctrines have, when rightly received, a practical influence. The atonement is not revealed to lessen, but to increase our dread of sin: election is not declared that we may be careless about sin, but that we may never be satisfied till we are holy: the precious promises are not given to make us negligent and worldly, but partakers of the Divine nature. The excellent Robert Bolton could to his comfort on his death-bed profess that he never in his sermons taught any thing but what he had first sought to work on his own heart.

Be sure what you are learning, and be not like those

~~who~~ were ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth, 2 Tim. iii. 7. Such persons upon the first flight of imagination, will leave evangelical truth for any fancy that flits across their path.

Vitringa's words in summing up the uses of the study of prophecy, may well be applied here, ' They teach us God and the true perfections of his nature, they explain the reasons of that admirable providence which he exercises in governing the world and the church, they deeply impress every where the highest reverence of his divine majesty and justice, they shake off torpor and that epidemic lethargy, by which most men miserably perish fast asleep, they stimulate the mind to true virtue and holiness, they not only recall and withdraw, but also deter us from all vices; every where they persuade to penitence and faith, the necessary means of salvation, and not only to fly from sin, but also to abhor it. They build up and commend a good conscience; they terrify an evil one, so that he who reads them perceives that a present God is with him. Wherefore we must with the apostle say, Therefore brethren, earnestly follow prophecy.'¹ Thus also the Holy Scriptures, and all the parts of theological knowledge are full of truths calculated to lead us to God, and quicken us in his service.

Another use is, that it is a great HELP TO THE FARTHER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE. Cecil justly observes in his Remains, ' a man ought to call in from every quarter whatever may assist him to understand, explain, and illustrate the Bible.' Here is the high office of Theology. Let all our knowledge of every kind, not merely pay tribute to the Bible,

¹ See Vitringa Typus Doctrinae, p. 48, 49. 1716.

but be pursued with a direct intention of more fully elucidating divine truth. As languages, arts and sciences, oriental customs, history, chronology, &c. receive light from the Bible, so a knowledge of them helps us to a better understanding of that blessed book. There is an extent of wisdom and learning in the scriptures, which every fresh degree of knowledge enables us still farther to penetrate and explore to our own edification, and the good of all around us. Brevity is throughout connected with inexhaustible fulness. One of the highest ends of knowledge is to lay open the riches of scripture for our full use and enjoyment. Beauties, and excellencies, and advantages, which the ignorant cannot discern, are enjoyed by the intelligent Christian. Christians ought not therefore to be satisfied with a mere sufficiency of knowledge for salvation. Even good people are apt indolently to say of many important views of Christian Theology, 'Let us leave these things to divines, and employ ourselves in the simple views, and practical duties of the gospel.' But the proper end for which our powers were given, was the attainment of the knowledge of God. In this is a field of infinite extent and most interesting research to *all Christians* according to their capabilities of improvement. And after having occupied themselves to the fullest extent of their powers and opportunities, and with growing interest in every stage of their progress, they will still leave enough in this deep and inexhaustible subject for the investigation of all the schools of the ablest theologians, to the end of the world. The different parts of truth are thus connected, harmonized, and illustrated. One part of Scripture throws light upon another. They must all be known and compared. Comparing spiritual

things with spiritual, is the right use of that wisdom which the Holy Ghost teacheth.

It has a further use as A GUARD AGAINST ERROR OF EVERY KIND. There are always multiplied and opposing schemes, opinions, and systems, floating all around us, and though the spiritual perception which is the result of Divine teaching, will keep a Christian clear of ruinous error, yet he may be surprized and brought into great mistakes, and mislead others, and endure much sorrow from want of that better information which more knowledge would have given him. By knowledge he will acquire firmness and stability of character, so as not to be shaken in mind, and moved about with every wind of doctrine. In every age, he will see the evils which errors have produced, the fruits and blessings of truth, and thus be preserved from hastily adopting novelties at first sight plausible and attractive. This indeed supposes piety and humility, otherwise, learning as we have seen, may be the fruitful source of error.

Another right application of Theology is TO MAKE US HUMBLE. True it is, that the danger of any acquisition, and especially of one so valuable as divine knowledge is, that of self-elation; but its right and proper improvement is humility; its just effect is lowliness of mind. Seeing how pure, and holy, and glorious God is, how spiritual his law, how rich his grace, how fallen, and needy, and ruined man by nature is, we possess the very elements of that genuine humility which the Saviour pronounces to be blessed. Who, with a Christian mind, can look back on past ages, and survey the multiplied errors of past days, and notice how the very best and the greatest of men have in some point or other failed, without learning

many lessons of diffidence and self-distrust. The more we know, the more we shall see there is to be known, and we shall be astonished at our confidence on points in past years, where now we see far more darkness than we were then aware of. *If any man thinketh that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.* True wisdom and humility go together—with the lowly is wisdom. And how inestimable the value of real humility. A friend of Andrew Fuller's, to whom he had made heavy complaints of himself, wrote thus, and he deeply valued the letter, 'God Almighty keep us from ever being great men, or rather from thinking ourselves so! Oh, it requires numberless miracles to get any man to heaven; perhaps I might say, especially a minister. You will do as long as you feel vile, and foolish, and weak. I had rather preach at your funeral, than live to see you good, and wise, and great, and strong in your own estimation.'¹

THE RIGHT DIRECTION OF OUR ACQUIREMENTS is another important part of the use of knowledge. It is obvious that excellent men have failed, by a misdirection of their talents to such subjects as they were not competent to discuss. Erasmus was invaluable as an agent in the advancement of literature, and exposing the folly and wickedness of the Monks; but when he attacked Luther, and the principles of the Reformation, he was out of his province. Bishop Bull, in defence of the divinity of Christ, brings the vast stores of antiquity which he had acquired powerfully to bear against the opponents

¹ See Ryland's Life of Fuller.

of this doctrine, but on an experimental question like that of justification, he rather covers it with obscurity, than places it in scriptural light. Grotius excelled in classical literature, in his rights of war and peace, in his truth of Christianity; but we cannot go along with him in his views of the gospel of the grace of God. We should learn to pray much, not only for heavenly wisdom to discern the truth, but also to apply the gifts which God has bestowed upon us in that channel, that may do most good. It is a happy manifestation of the right application of acquirements, when an author's later publications are manifestly more spiritual, evangelical, and heavenly-minded than his earlier ones; and you see in his course *the path of the just as the shining light, shining more and more unto the perfect day*. Owen's *Meditations on the Glory of Christ*, and Baxter's *Dying Thoughts*, furnish specimens of this maturity of Christian light and love.

Knowledge is rightly improved when it becomes a MEANS OF GRACE. The Apostle prays for believers, *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you, through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord*. That knowledge is most useful which has most tended to purify and rectify our affections and conduct, which has brought us nearest to Christ in deep humiliation and earnest longings for his salvation. The knowledge of which we speak has this direct tendency in all its parts; under the gracious influence of the Holy Spirit it quickens and sanctifies. The Christian will thus very advantageously study books of practical piety, and holy and experimental works, and thereby his various graces will be fostered and advanced. As it has pleased God to accompany the preaching of his

ministers with the power of his Spirit, so also Christian instruction, when reduced to writing, and read in private, is attended with the similar Divine influences, and truly nourishes the soul with heavenly manna. 'It is the high and eminent use then of theology, not merely to fill the head with notions, but to edify the heart; to be a grand means of holiness, and a main instrument of the Divine mercy for transforming the soul; and renewing it in knowledge after the image of God. *Sanctify them through thy truth.* There is not a truth of sound theology, but it has a sanctifying tendency. The words of David, Psalm xix. 7—11. are very full on this point. Christian Reader, 'Be not satisfied with **HOW MUCH** thou knowest; but see what effect the knowledge which thou hast attained has upon thy heart and life?' The mark of true discipleship is love. *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples*; not that ye have talents and learning, but *that ye love one another.*

Knowledge is farther useful to **GUIDE US IN DIFFICULTIES.** Perplexing cases often arise, and the same errors, having their origin in the natural blindness of the heart, are frequently revived under fresh names. In these and other difficulties, the former experience of the servants of Christ, and an enlarged scriptural knowledge will furnish much help to guide us aright. When Christian love abounds *in all knowledge and in all judgment*, we shall *approve things that are excellent*, and shall *be sincere*, and *without offence.* Solomon asserts, that *the wisdom of the prudent is to direct his way.* Prov. xiv. 8. Nor is there any wisdom so important as to be wise unto salvation, nor any prudence greater than that which leads us to attend supremely to the one thing needful. A wise Christian

who has taken a large survey of the church, and of the various parts of divinity, has many advantages for speedily forming a judgment on dubious cases, and marking the true limits of every case.

Again, it is eminently useful when it is employed TO ADVANCE THE SALVATION OF OUR FELLOW CREATURES. Next to being wise to our own salvation is that wisdom which he possesses who *winneeth souls*, Prov. xi. 30. The figure of an intelligent Christian and Christian teacher, is that (Matt. xiii. 52.) of a well furnished householder; not a miser hoarding his treasures, but bringing them out. It is the invariable character of the Divine economy that no man is blessed for himself, but as a vehicle of communication of blessings to others. Abraham was blessed that he might be a blessing (Gen. xii. 2). So the Jews, Psalm lxxvii. 1, 2. Talents are given, not to be carefully hid, but diligently traded with, for the good of others. Compare the parable of the talents with the solemn account of the day of reckoning, Matt. xxv. 14—46. Many are the advantages which the intelligent Christian possesses. He has an overflowing spring within of life-giving waters, the streams of which may diffuse themselves, and spread fertility all around. In the varied intercourse of man with his fellow men, he has always a treasury of the best kind, and may bring out of that treasury things new and old. In the social circle, as *iron sharpeneth iron*, so especially such a man *sharpeneth the countenance of his friend*. With his family, the husband dwells with the wife according to knowledge, he trains up his children in the way they should go, and he benefits his servants by domestic instruction. In his walks with his associates, by the sick beds of the afflicted, among the cottages of the poor, and with the

children of the Sunday school, what means the instructed Christian has of promoting their best, even their everlasting good! He stops the contagion of error and vice, and he infuses the counteracting principles, the very elements of truth and goodness. Then are we using knowledge, then are we not merely preparing to live, but really living, when we are guiding the humble inquirer, relieving the afflicted conscience, checking the progress of sin and infidelity, and exciting all around us to holiness and usefulness. In teaching we are taught. Well do we improve knowledge; when we follow the Apostle's advice to Timothy, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* The immense importance of this application of knowledge may be seen in the instance of Luther. Dr. Chalmers observes that, 'through the medium of the press and by virtue of scholarship alone, Luther bore with greater weight, than did all his coadjutors, on the living history of the world; and, after all, it was from the cell of studious contemplation, from the silent depository of a musing and meditative spirit, there came forth the strongest and most widely felt impulse on the mechanism of human society.'

Its most just application, however, is enabling us TO GLORIFY GOD. Every thing is really of use, as it tends to promote this great end of our being. The creature best fulfils the end of its creation, when it most exalts the Creator. This then is the chief scope of religious knowledge. That it tends to this may be seen not only in the uses already pointed out, but also in its enabling us to discern the divine glory in the truths and ways of God, and thus to declare and illustrate, defend and maintain that glory in all our inter-

course with our fellow creatures. David first prays,
Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth;
unite my heart to fear thy name. And then adds, *I*
will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, I
will glorify thy name for evermore. The doctrine of a
 crucified Saviour, for instance, is to the Greek foolish-
 ness, and to the Jew a stumbling-block, but to the
 instructed Christian, it is the wisdom of God, and the
 power of God. God shines in our hearts to give the
 light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face
 of Jesus Christ. When our minds are illuminated
 with heavenly light, we discern something of the
 wisdom and the glory of this divine scheme of mercy,
 and we are able for ourselves to behold and rejoice in
 this glory, and then with all earnestness and affection
 to declare it to others. When Nebuchadnezzar was
 brought to the knowledge of himself and his God, he
 addressed all nations, saying, *Now I Nebuchadnezzar*
praise, and extol, and honour the King of heaven, all
whose works are truth, and his ways judgment. God is
 most dishonoured where ignorance most prevails. The
 want of knowledge brings in idolatry (Isa. xlv. 20.)
 and every evil work (Psalm xiv. 4). Fruitfulness
 glorifies God, (John xv. 8), and all spiritual bless-
 ings abound through the knowledge of God and
 Christ (2 Pet. i. 2, 3). As the angelic host have the
 greatest knowledge, so is their knowledge wholly used
 to glorify the Divine Being, and their song for ever is,
Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and
honour, and power, and might be unto our God. for ever
and ever. Even the knowledge of the creature and of
 earthly things may, as we see in the works of Boyle, and
 Ray, and Derham, be used to the manifestation of the
 Divine wisdom and glory; and much more should that

which relates to intelligent spirits, and the mind and purposes and will of the great Sovereign of all worlds respecting their present and final condition. The more we discover of these things in a right spirit, the more we shall abase ourselves in the dust before God, and admire and set forth the Divine glory through our life. We shall enter with all our hearts into the Apostle's conclusion of his survey of the Christian scheme, *O the depth*, Rom. xi. 33—36. and be prepared for these beautiful lessons of Christian godliness, with which he follows out that conclusion (Rom. xii).

We may lastly notice among the right uses of theology, **A DUE PREPARATION FOR OUR FINAL HAPPINESS.** 'We may reasonably suppose that all the endeavours which we employ upon earth to know God shall not be lost to us in heaven, and that they who in this world shall acquire the best knowledge of him will have, at their entrance into the habitations of glory, the qualities most requisite for seeing him as he is.' Divine knowledge is the very beginning of heaven. *This is life eternal to know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.* If men perish for lack of knowledge, and for the abuse of knowledge, there is also a right use of knowledge by which our everlasting welfare may be furthered. *The excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.* Eccles. vii. 12. It teaches what no other science does, the state of things beyond the grave; it shows us the judgment to come, the woe of hell and the bliss of heaven; and directs us to a safe and satisfactory preparation for those eternal realities, that we may escape the eternal evil, and obtain the boundless and never ceasing good. All other knowledge has either this defect, that it relates only to this

life, or in its best aspect it is but subservient to divine knowledge. This it is that immediately and at once raises us above earthly things to higher and better regions, opens to us the gates of everlasting life, introduces us to the society of glorious spirits in the heavenly mansions, conducts us to the court of the King of kings, and never leaves us till it brings us to dwell before his throne for ever and ever. *Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.* Col. i. 9. *In thy light shall we see light.* Psalm xxxvi. 9.

Such are some of the right uses of Theology. You will see that however some kinds of knowledge may be beneficial for common life, others beneficial and interesting to the mind, such as science, &c. this is not only more useful and interesting than any other, but also indispensably necessary for our present and everlasting happiness. Let us inquire then, whether we are thus improving our acquisitions in divine truth. Do they bring us nearer to God? do they open to us the Scriptures? do they guard us against error? do they make us humble? do we find them means of grace? are we using them to advance the salvation of others and to glorify God? are we by them becoming more meet for the heavenly inheritance?

It is a sad and miserable mistake, to consider attainments merely as a ground of self-elevation, and thus to be puffed up with them; they should rather be viewed as a talent for which we are accountable, as a trust in the occupation of which we are bound to be faithful. In this view indeed we shall see that they increase our responsibility and enlarge our duties;

but blessed be God they also increase the power and the high privilege of doing good to others, as well as the means of enjoying good in our own happy experience.

Christian student, then, be not only diligent in acquiring¹ divine knowledge, but be watchful to use and employ every acquisition for the divine glory. This will repay every sacrifice of vain pleasure, every indulgence of mere indolence, every conflict with worldly temptation. But never forget that for this profitable use of knowledge you especially need divine assistance. *I am the Lord which teacheth thee to profit.* Augustine observes, that the Prophet here mentions utility, and not subtilty, as the end of Divine teaching. The Apostle sums up what we have said in this prayer for his converts—*That ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

¹ Do not satisfy yourself with the knowledge that is thrown in your way, but search for it in humility, diligence, faith, and prayer, in every field which the gracious Providence of God has opened to you. In such a day as this, excellent helps are within the reach of all. New and perhaps improved helps offer themselves almost every day. Do not be satisfied with a few helps in the way of books, which perhaps have lain by you for years past, and are now become old and wearisome, but consider it an obligation of Christian duty to some extent at least, to deny yourself both in money and time that you may avail yourself of those important advantages of increasing in the knowledge of God, in the perception of his glory, in the obedience to his will, and preparation for his kingdom.

CHAPTER XX.

JESUS CHRIST, THE CHIEF AND THE BEST TEACHER
OF HIS PEOPLE.

HAVING dwelt so much on human writings, the Author feels that it will be refreshing to himself, and he hopes to his readers, in the close of his work, to turn our minds from human writings to the great Teacher, who came from God himself, and lives for ever as the Counsellor of his church. May every heart be raised to him, who was foretold as the Prophet, like unto Moses, and who is still with his church as its Guide, and Leader, and Teacher. In the words of the martyred Ridley, ‘Christ biddeth us to ask and we shall have. Therefore, O heavenly Father, the author and fountain of all truth, the bottomless sea of all understanding ; send down, we beseech thee, thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, and lighten our understandings with the beams of thy heavenly grace. We ask thee this, O merciful Father, not in respect of our deserts, but for thy dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ’s sake.’

When a human teacher reflects on his own ignorance and weakness, and the immense moment of right instruction in the things of God, it is an inexpressible consolation to his mind, to be able to refer all who listen to him to ONE who can supply every deficiency, and to assure them that none who follow *Him* shall fail of reaching at last the heavenly Mansions.

And delightful it is to the humble spirit of the true Christian, to receive all from this Divine Mediator. If he could do without divine teaching,

if he could by his own efforts, without the wisdom which comes from above, become truly wise unto salvation, his Saviour's plan pleases him better, he had rather receive the gift as he does now through a Mediator, for thus it becomes a token of divine love, and a consoling evidence of his Father's favour and kindness to him.

We have already, in the third chapter of this work, explained the general nature of divine teaching, we would now view the subject in its immediate connexion with our Lord's office as the Prophet and Teacher of his church.

We notice first HIS DIVINE APPOINTMENT to this office. It was foretold by Moses, *The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren like unto me; unto him shall ye hearken.* Isaiah in the name of Jehovah directs the attention of the church to him, *Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my elect in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.* In the fulness of time this great Prophet came, and in person declared, *All things are delivered unto me of my Father, and no man knoweth the Son but the Father, neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.* When he had accomplished his work of redemption, and was risen to his original glory, he sent his Holy Spirit on his Apostles, filled them with divine wisdom, and called them to testify that he was the Prophet of whom Moses had spoken. (Acts iii. 22. vii. 37.) The Father appoints him to this office, and the Spirit endows him with all requisite gifts to fulfil it, (Isa. xi. 1—5.) and acts as his agent in carrying on his work, (John xvi. 7—15.) and the result of this

Divine appointment shall be, that *the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.* Isa. xi. 9.

HIS QUALIFICATIONS for this office, which are peculiar and complete, may next be pointed out.

He is an all-wise Teacher. He has infallible wisdom. However pious human teachers may be, and however disposed to assist us, none are wholly free from ignorance and error; it is not so with Christ, *in him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*, and this for us: *he is made of God unto us wisdom.* He not only knows what is in man, but in the Father also (Matt. xi. 27). The Divine Spirit is given by measure to man; it is given without measure to the great Mediator; (John iii. 34.) and *the Spirit of the Lord* that rests upon him is *the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge, and of the fear of the Lord.* Look at the displays of this wisdom when he was upon earth; with what authority and distinctness, with what love and tenderness he instructed his followers; how he baffled all the tricks and subtilty of Scribes and Pharisees, Sadducees and Herodians; how ably he solved the artful questions about the tribute-money, the doctrine of the resurrection, and the woman taken in adultery, leaving a holy lesson, and removing all the fancied difficulties; how wisely he taught his disciples as they were able to bear it, and opened their understandings to understand the Scriptures; what depths of wisdom are there in his parables and discourses! He is still the same all-wise Teacher. He knows every circumstance. He knows every heart. *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight, but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

He is *an experienced Teacher*. He has himself practised all his lessons. He has learned in the school of experience the truths which he teaches. Human instructors are often inefficient, because they have had little experience; we all more or less fail, as we say and do not. It is a most humbling and affecting proof of our fall, that we can clearly discern and expose the fault of another, at the very time that we are blind to our own commission of the same fault; we can admit correct notions without their becoming living principles; but it is the peculiar glory of this Teacher that there is not an excellence which he sets before us in instruction that is not in full perfection in himself, and that he has not set before us in his own life; and this not merely in prosperous circumstances; he has known want and poverty, he has gone through darkness and temptation, he has been in deep sorrow and extreme suffering; *though he were a son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered*. The Saviour first *did* and then *taught* (Acts i. 1. Matt. xi. 49.) His early life in his father's business as a carpenter, is full of sweet instruction to the humble Christian. We think that it is of great value to have the advice of an experienced Christian, and so it is, but let us not fail to look still higher. All Christians may have the advantage of that experience which the Saviour's unequalled temptations and sufferings have given to him. This gives him such sympathy with his people, that *in all their afflictions he is afflicted*. He has again long exercised this gracious office. Look at the scholars of his school. Mark the glorious company of the Apostles, the goodly fellowship of the Prophets, the noble army of Martyrs, the blessed band of the Reformers, and the holy Church, in ages past;

they were all under his teaching. He has already guided thousands and millions safely home; he has lost none of them that were given unto him; he rejects none that come unto him; let us also go that we may have life.

He is a kind Teacher. Sometimes human teachers are harsh and severe; sometimes they do not like to be interrupted; sometimes they are dogmatic, proud, and negligent. But Jesus is mild and gentle, meek and lowly, kind and faithful. It is delightful to mark his readiness to instruct while on earth; when he was weary, when he wished for retirement, when they followed him into his secret retreats, when he had not time so much as to eat bread, when even little children were brought to him, he never once refused to teach. Blessed Saviour, may we imitate thy unwearied love! How precious are thy words, *Come unto me all ye that are weary—take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart.* Read the 8th chapter of Proverbs, and in the invitations of wisdom see a beautiful picture of the willingness of Christ to instruct. See how graciously he promises (Prov. xxii. 8). *I will instruct thee, and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go, I will guide thee with mine eye.* Look at his life, though he speaks with authority, yet it is the authority of truth and love, as well as of power and dominion; it is all marked by inexpressible kindness, and patience, and tenderness. How wonderful his patience in bearing with the unbelief and dullness, the prejudices and perverseness of his disciples; what allowances he made for them, and how readily he pardoned, and again received them!

Once more, *he is an abiding teacher.* It was his last

promise on earth to his church, *Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world.* Human teachers can give but short lessons, and they are gone. However, much we may sometimes desire their counsel, there are seasons when they cannot come to us, and we cannot go to them. He is ever present, and the Christian can say, that *he will be our guide unto death.* When in the midst of enemies, and under the most perplexing difficulties for his name's sake, we can, without the possibility of man's interference, realize the presence of this Teacher, apply to Him, and hold communion with Him, and He will give a mouth and wisdom which all our adversaries shall not be able to gainsay or resist. Happy are Christians, the pupils of the Teacher who has promised *I will never leave thee nor forsake thee ;* and who may boldly say, *the Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man can do unto me.*

From this view of his qualifications we must conclude, that He is an *unparalleled* Teacher : he has a fitness for this office that is quite unequalled. All the glories of his person as God and man, all the titles which he bears, all the endowments with which he is enriched as our Mediator, and all the offices which he has undertaken eminently, and without a rival, qualify Him to be **THE PROPHET.** He is God, and therefore omniscient and omnipresent, he can counsel the thousands of his Israel in all ages and places, and at one and the same instant direct and lead them ; nothing can be hid from Him : He is man, and therefore can descend to and sympathize with human infirmity. The union and combination of His varied names show His peculiar qualification ; he is the chief Bishop, the *Bright and Morning Star*, the Counsellor, the Faithful Witness, the

Guide, the Lawgiver, the Light of the world and the Light of Life, the Shepherd, the Sun of Righteousness, the true Solomon, the Teacher come from God, the Truth, the Word of God, and the Wisdom of God. What an unparalleled Teacher is here ! How long shall his people be clouded under the mists and darkness of human errors, because they come not to that better Instructor, who alone *teacheth to profit*. Isaiah. *xlvi. 17.* Let us too remember that he has assumed no office which he will not adequately fulfil ; *faithfulness is the girdle of his reins*. We may entirely depend on Him for the due and full use of his endowments : *he is faithful to him that appointed him, as Moses was faithful in all his house ;* but in a vastly superior, in an unparalleled degree : *Moses as a servant ;* with human defects ; *Christ as a son over his own house,* and though *touched with a feeling of our infirmities,* yet *holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners.*

THE MEANS BY WHICH CHRIST TEACHES are very varied. We might go through the preceding chapters of this work, and show that all the different topics on which we have been dwelling illustrate the modes in which the Saviour instructs. By human learning, by holiness, by more immediate divine teaching, and by the Scriptures ; by practical and controversial works ; by the history of his church ; by the ministry of the word, or the publications of His servants, He is carrying on one and the same design, the instruction of his people. The great Teacher is still one, the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor are different and apparently opposite modes inconsistent with his wisdom. John the Baptist comes in an abstemious manner and under a severe garb, *neither eating bread,*

nor drinking wine; the Son of man comes eating and drinking; but both are divinely sent instructors, and wisdom is justified of all her children; they will believe and acknowledge, and improve the divine wisdom in all the methods by which he teaches.

All providences are his voice; all situations and circumstances teach the lessons of his school; the whole earth is the temple of his instruction. *The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.*

He has given His word to be *a light unto our feet, and a lamp to our paths*, and there especially we have *the mind of Christ*: He sends His ministers to open men's eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light; His people are not only enlightened by his beams themselves, but through this received light they communicate to others,¹ *among whom ye shine as lights, holding forth the word of life*. Afflictions are by Him made eminently instructive; His children can say to Him, *It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes*.

But it is especially by His Divine Spirit that our Lord efficiently teaches. The light which His word,

¹ Even the most experienced teacher may receive great help from a weak Christian. Luther observes, 'I am a doctor in theology, and many persons readily admit that they have received considerable help from me on sacred subjects; but I have found myself assisted and raised up by a word from a brother, who thought himself in no wise my equal. There is much value in a word from scripture, spoken by a brother, in the time of trial. For the holy scripture ever has the Holy Spirit present with it, and in different ways he excites and builds up the heart by the word. Thus Timothy, Titus, Epaphroditus, and the brethren that came from Rome, comforted St. Paul, although he was far more taught and experienced in the word of God than they were. For there are times in which the greatest saints are weak, and others are stronger than they.'

His ministers, Christians, or afflictions, or the course of His providence, may give, will all be without effect, till the Holy Ghost, with divine energy, open the blind eyes, and enable us to discern the true light. This is even more important than his personal ministry, as may be seen by the extensive effects produced through the outpouring of His Holy Spirit.

In the plan of the Divine dispensations, the Son of God is the Mediator through whom the Holy Ghost is sent to man. *It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart I will send him unto you.* This shows us that it is only through a Mediator that the Holy God can so reign over sinful men, as to communicate His blessings to them, or they can go to Him. We too much lose sight of the present mediation of Christ. It is dishonourable to Him, it is injurious to His present grace and love, to think that salvation was, as it regards the sanctification of believers, finished when the Saviour died. Justification is not all our salvation. We need another blessing, illumination and inward purity. Holiness and obedience are essential to true happiness. And Jesus Christ has received of the Father that grace of the Holy Spirit, which He, as Mediator, now freely dispenses to sinful creatures, and by which they are enlightened and sanctified. And as sinners cannot have communications with and from a Holy God but through a Mediator, so the Holy Ghost is not communicated to man but through Christ (John vii. 37—39. xvi. 7). It pleases God thus to convey the blessing, that we may see that we have no claim to it, and do not merit it; that our knowledge and holiness may be more expressly of grace, and that Jesus may have the just and due reward of his cross, and the

benevolent joy of dispensing salvation to perishing sinners (John v. 21. vi. 51). He rose to be Lord both of the dead and living (Rom. xiv. 9). We are saved by his life (Rom. v. 10), and He is, out of His fulness, dispensing, as Mediator, spiritual blessings to His people. Hence he says, *Because I live, ye shall live also* (John xiv. 19). It is an unspeakable comfort that *this river of the water of life thus flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

The value of Christ's teaching may be more clearly discerned, by placing it IN CONTRAST WITH OTHER SYSTEMS OF INSTRUCTION.

NOMINAL CHRISTIANITY is fearfully prevalent through Christian countries. Our Saviour describes it, when he says to Sardis, *Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.* This painful account of Sardis is too true a description of vast numbers among all Christian nations and Christian communities. From the best National Establishment, and the most select religious society, down to the lowest rank of Socinianism, what multitudes have the name of Christian, and nothing of the life of Christ!

View the operation of this system, WHERE THE SENTIMENTS ARE CORRECT. The system of a barren orthodoxy, by whatever class of Christians it may be held, from the highest Calvinist to the lowest Arminian, is a contrast to the teaching of Christ. It is the bare religion of sentiment, as opposed to the vital and influential religion of motive. It adopts a correct outside form, and resting in it, becomes one of the most effectual opposers of the real truth. Setting itself against the life and influence of the very truth which it holds, and reproaching its faithful confessors, who *live godly in Christ Jesus*, it sits down self-satisfied

with the mere profession of correct doctrine, in some particular favourite notions. Under this screen and mask, carnal nature, corrupt passions, and the love of the world and of sin flourish, not only with undiminished, but with increased vigour. St. Paul gives an awful prediction of this state of things : *In the last days perilous times shall come ; for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God : having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.*

The doctrine of Christ, where taught by that great Teacher gives spiritual life, it leads to the mortification of all sin, and to abounding in all the fruits of righteousness ; it fills with joy and peace ; with love and humility ; with devotion and spirituality, and it brings a man to walk with God, and to have his conversation in heaven.

View again the operation of the system of nominal Christianity under another form, which, disregarding the teaching of Christ, makes UTILITY the grand criterion of moral obligation. The benevolent labours, and the improvements and discoveries which we owe to many authors of this class, make it the more necessary to point out its unscriptural character. It is the SYSTEM OF HUMAN EXPEDIENCY ; one most extensively and injuriously prevalent at the present day. Its language, as expressed by its advocate Dr. Paley, is, 'actions are to be estimated by their tendency to promote happiness. Whatever is expedient is right. It is the utility of any moral rule alone which constitutes the obligation of it.' He founds

this system on the Divine benevolence, which he states, 'wills and wishes the happiness of his creatures.' This is a partial view, and the conclusions are very unsafe and erroneous. Indeed Paley himself carries his own principles, legitimately enough for such false principles, to conclusions which show their error as a rule of conduct; and bring them under that fearful statement, *Let us do evil that good may come; whose damnation is just.*

The fact, in contrariety to this pernicious system, is, that even the abstract truth, which is so clearly declared in the Holy Scriptures, that *all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to his purpose*, is a matter of faith, the evidences of which, through the darkness of our understanding, are only partially seen at present, and will only be clearly discerned and fully developed at the last day. But to infer that what seems to us useful on the whole is thence right to be done, assumes that we adequately and fully know what is useful, and thus assumes in fact that we know infinitely more than our finite faculties can possibly comprehend. The rule is insufficient in cases where there is no positive precept, for it would be gross fallacy to infer a line of duty from a partial view of a few consequences. Much more would it be not merely a fallacy but a dreadful presumption to admit such an inferential rule when opposing clear precepts of God's word.

Under the plausible exterior of praising the Divine benevolence, a deity is imagined suited to our carnal nature; God and his Christ are dethroned; man's will is invested with sovereign authority, and a mere refined selfishness and a disguised infidelity are

established. Unquestionably God has connected man's happiness with obedience; and godliness in the issue will be found to be the highest utility; but making utility the ground of moral obligation, is making man's precarious judgment of utility, than which nothing can be more fluctuating and uncertain, or more easily mislead and seduce, the guide of conduct.

God has higher ends in creating us than the mere happiness of man; he has formed all things for his own glory, as well as for the final good of those who love him; and many things to our view may be very useful that are very offensive to God, and ultimately very injurious to ourselves. What is the natural effect of this system? Overlooking Christ, to whom *all power in heaven and earth is given*, and his government of the earth, it destroys the noble actings of faith, and leads men to human motives, quite inadequate to produce that self-denying, self-sacrificing, and disinterested conduct which has been most beneficial to the human race. Under this system the Apostles would never have said *they counted not their lives dear*, and Christianity would never have been propagated; Luther would never have effected the Reformation in Germany, or the martyrs in England sealed our own with their blood; and thus persecutions, oppressions, slavery, the inquisition of the Romanist, and every iniquity may be plausibly covered even to the most tremendous crime that ever was committed: *It is expedient for us that one man should die for the people.*

How different the teaching of Jesus! He shows us God is to be loved more than life itself; His law is to be obeyed at all hazards; He sits on the throne, and man is formed for his glory: *Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are,*

and were created. God has implanted a conscience of right and wrong in every bosom, and he has given his word to display his will to man; and to those that ask he gives his Holy Spirit. Here is a fixed, an adequate, and sufficient guide and standard for human actions, till the great day of judgment decide every thing. Whatever present difficulties the fulfilling of God's will may bring, a faithful conformity to it shall in the result invariably be found to be most for the benefit of a community, and for the good of the individual, most to promote human happiness, as well as to set forth the Divine glory.¹

On the dead carcasses of a nominal Christianity, Infidelity, Mahomedanism, and Popery, feed and subsist. They have their chief nourishment in the worldliness, the selfishness, the vices, and the inconsistencies of Christians in name only. The bright light of Christian truth, exhibited in the faithful lives of Christians, would scare away these antichristian delusions.

INFIDELITY began indeed at the fall, and was the first step in man's ruin, and it has ever since been the natural growth of the human mind, and the spring-head of human misery. Yet we have seen (pp. 307, 336, 340) that it arose with new vigour, and with bad eminence flourished in the decay of vital Christianity, and it now gathers its main strength and power from the corruptions of Christians in name. Not seeing the blessedness of the gospel in the happy experience of real Christians, it finds no preponderating good to set against the restraints of Religion, and says, *Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.*

¹ Dr. Dewar in his *Elements of Moral Philosophy*, ably answers Paley Vol. ii. 37—63.

This system altogether and avowedly sets aside the Saviour and his religion, with, *we will not have this man to reign over us.*

If insubordination to rulers, speaking evil of dignities, and abused patronage ; if sabbath-breaking,—in its various branches of travelling, buying, selling, and working, and Sunday newspapers, parties, and pleasure-taking ; if perjuries, profligacies, intoxication, increase of crime, and allowance of slavery in the West Indies, and of burning of widows in the East Indies ; if all these are both the symptoms and the consequences of infidelity,—to what an extent does it prevail in our country. Let a man be under the teaching of Christ, and receive his promises, and he flies from these and other iniquities ; cleansing himself *from all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit, and perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord..*

The system of MAHOMEDANISM presents us with a false prophet to supersede the prophetic office of Christ ; its characteristic features are pride and lust of dominion, oppression, tyranny, and licentiousness. Look only at the countries under its dominant power, and mark its baneful influences, which form a perfect contrast to the beneficial efficacy of the teaching of Christ. It is the awful retributory judgment of God on a corrupt Christianity. ¹

¹ We can speak here only of the corruptions of Christianity ; to enter on *Paganism* would carry us too far. How striking is the description of idolatry in the 14th chapter of the Apocryphal book, the Wisdom of Solomon ! after going through the vanity of idols, and showing that “ the devising of idols was the beginning of spiritual fornication, and the invention of them the corruption of life ; ” the Author of that book thus sums up the evil consequences, “ so that there reigned in all men, without exception, blood, manslaughter, theft, and dissimulation, corruption, unfaith-

The system of ROMAN CATHOLICISM, which is founded on an avowed admission of the offices of Christ, is in truth also a virtual setting aside of Him and His great salvation, by supplying human resources and remedies. What is the claim of infallibility, but a direct invasion of that blessed office which we are now considering. The leading feature of popery is an usurpation of the offices of Christ; while it is a professed acknowledgment, it is the most extended and effective denial, of the Father and the Son. His word is either withheld from the mass of the people, or supplanted by pretended Apostolic traditions; His Spirit is set aside by man's invented purifications, and His law by human omissions and additions.

In the language of a friend, 'What need is there of the teaching of the Holy Spirit, if the spirit of Roman Infallibility can reveal the sense of the *divine word*? What need of a *Divine Mediator as Priest*, if *Saints* can perform his office of intercession, and *Priests* can offer an unbloody sacrifice for the expiation of sin? What need of a *Divine Prophet*, when the *Church* can teach that wisdom which resides eminently and essentially in its *Head*? and what need of a *Divine King*, to sanctify the human soul by his power, if man, by penance and mortification, and alms, and prayers, can *sanctify* himself? On this system of heathenism under a Christian name, the whole glory of the gospel of grace is virtually overthrown: for thus fallen man can justify himself by his own good-

fulness, tumults, perjury, disquieting of good men, forgetfulness of good turns, defiling of souls, changing of kind, disorder in marriages, adultery and shameless uncleanness. For the worshipping of idols, not to be named, is the beginning, the cause, and the end of all evil.' The description is faithfully true.

sanctify himself by his own power, and glorify himself in his own perfection. Thus man assumes to be his own Saviour, by superseding the office of Him, the eternal Son of God, expressly and mercifully provided for this purpose.

What then has been the fruit of this great corruption? No doubt, there are exceptions, but speaking generally. These principles of corrupt Christianity have been attended with a corresponding corruption in practice,—a merely learned, or a superstitious and self-righteous, or an ignorant and overbearing priest, held,—as a natural and self-imposed condition of social life, “forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving,” 1 Tim. iv. 3,—the direct encouragement to sin in plenary indulgences,—a second probation after death in purgatory—the purchase of masses for the dead—the invasion of domestic confidence by auricular confession, and similar instances of priestly influence over the conscience,—above all that tyranny over human opinion which is the necessary result of the supremacy of an Infallible Head, and which, enslaving the mind by ignorance of Bible-truth, and terrifying the conscience by priestly domination, makes man the slave of man; and renders the body the victim of absolute power; a slavish condition of society being the natural and general result of full Roman Catholic ascendancy.¹

¹ By their *Indexes*, the Romanists have most effectually set themselves against Christ, and his teaching. The Reader may see this fully exemplified in Mendham's account of *Indexes*, both Prohibitory and Expurgatory of the Church of Rome. Some points are there clearly established. The free circulation of the word of Christ is intentionally impeded, pp. 24, 33, 34, 184;

Where there are exceptions, as in the cases of Pascal and Quesnel, those very exceptions are odious to that apostate church; and their retention of Roman peculiarities has been seriously injurious to their own full perception of the truth.

What a contrast is here to the blessed doctrine of Christ! No tyrannous domination; no pomp and pageantry of external show; no dressed and painted idols; no fumes and clouds of incense; no gorgeous processions; no dumb pantomime; no crossings and bowings, crucifixes and candles; none of these mark the doctrine of Christ: it is the simplicity of truth; the dominion of love; the pure offering of spiritual worship. Though it be indeed foolishness to the wise of this world, it is characteristic of the greatness and glory of God. It is a revelation of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; a proclamation of Divine mercy to rebels; a grand display of sovereign grace; a free salvation, entirely wrought out by God Himself. It produces a change within, a moral revolution, and transforms a fallen sinner into a child of God, and a meet companion for angels through eternity. Its genuine fruit here is *love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance*; its fruit hereafter is *everlasting life*.

its main doctrine—salvation by grace, through faith—is in every way opposed, p. 130, and those works which have most of the mind of Christ are especially prohibited: such as Dupin, Fenelon, Quesnel, and Pascal among the Romanists, and all the works of the Reformers. It is curious to see such works as those of Beveridge, Bingham, Burnet, Cave, Locke, Milton, Walton, &c. (see p. 122) condemned. Mr. Mendham observes, ‘It is not the extent of the truth to say, that a *good* library might be formed from the books condemned by the Papal Indexes; they would furnish an almost *perfect* one, perfect indeed for all the purposes of absolute and abundant utility.’

How infinitely superior is the teaching of Christ ! How pure and excellent is His instruction, when compared with every false system ! His word is truly an infallible standard. There He speaks with divine authority, fixing and concluding, under the awful sanctions of our Creator, all the most important practical truths needful for man to know. *The people were astonished at his doctrine, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.* The officers sent to apprehend him testified, *never man spake as this man.* By his Spirit he *convinces the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.* He opens the full extent of our disease, and unveils, not a fictitious, imaginary, and deceitful drama of human nature, but such a representation, that every one instructed by Him can say, ‘ This is a picture of my heart,’ ‘ this is the real state of the world.’ He also provides, He manifests, and He applies, not a deceitful drug, vain and inefficient except to injure and destroy, but a complete remedy. There is not only the removal of guilt, but in the mode of removal the very spring of a future righteous conduct. He instructs the highest monarch on his throne, he overlooks not the poorest peasant in the cottage : the poor are indeed the special objects of his attention. He schools not man in his misery with the hard declamations of a severe master, but with the sweet and tender accents of love, He quiets and soothes, He guides and leads into all truth. The words of one of His under teachers well describe the instruction of the Chief Teacher : *We were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children, so being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted to you not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear*

unto us. He not only recovers for us our forfeited inheritance, but shows us God our reconciled Father, and presents us before Him as the recovered children of His love, again privileged to enter our Father's house, and dwell in his presence and favour through eternity.

Let us more explicitly point out **THE CHARACTER OF HIS TEACHING.** His whole course of instruction is wonderful. He sometimes brings His children to the very gates of hell before they see the light of saving truth;¹ their way is often dark and intricate, and sometimes very painful and distressing before they arrive at peace and joy in believing. *I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not, I will lead them in paths that they have not known, I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.*

¹ Bishop Reynolds, in his Third Sermon on Hosea xiv. has these striking remarks: 'When a poor soul has been with Jonah in the midst of the seas, compassed with the floods, closed in with the depths, brought down to the bottom of the mountains, wrapt about head and heart and all over with the weeds, and locked up with the bars of sin and death; when it has felt the weight of a guilty conscience, and been terrified with the fearful expectation of an approaching curse, lying as it were at the pit's brink, within the smoke of hell, within the smell of that brimstone, and scorplings of that unquenchable fire which is kindled for the devil and his angels: and is then, by a more bottomless and unsearchable mercy brought unto dry land, snatched as a brand out of the fire, translated into a glorious condition, from a law to a gospel, from a curse to a crown, from damnation to an inheritance, from a slave to a son; then, then only, never till then, is that soul in a fit disposition to sing praises unto God. When God hath forgiven all a man's iniquities, and healed all the diseases of his soul, and redeemed his life from destruction . . . and crowned him with loving kindness and tender mercies, turning away his anger and revealing those mercies which are from everlasting in election unto everlasting in salvation, removing his sins from him as far as the east is from the west; then a man will call upon his soul over and over again, and summon every faculty within him, and invite every creature without him, to bless the Lord, and to ingeminate praises to his holy name.'

Notice its enlightening and sanctifying character. His teaching REALLY ENLIGHTENS. It does not merely convey a notion to the intellect, but a vital influence; it is not in word only, but in power, and in the Holy Ghost: His words are spirit and life: He can say, *I am the Light of the world, he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.* It is not like the light of the moon on a cold and chilling night, but like the light of the sun warming and enlivening. Other teachers can bring right sentiments before us, but this Teacher has a superior power; He is not only *great in counsel*, but also *mighty in work* (Jer. xxxii. 19. Isaiah xxviii. 29). He claims it as His prerogative to *put wisdom in the inward parts, and give understanding to the heart*, Job xxxviii. 36. Though the Bible be plain, yet we want a right spirit before we can understand it. Jesus gives this. He was promised, as *a light of the Gentiles, to open the blind eyes* (Isa. xlii. 6, 7); He did not literally give bodily sight to one Gentile, it is therefore a far better light that the promise intends, even the spiritual light which he communicates to the soul. Under His teaching we discern the infinite value of the soul, the evil of sin, the way of salvation by grace through faith, the wisdom of being truly religious; and thus *the eyes of our understanding are enlightened to know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.* God himself also is made known to us by Christ: *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.* In a higher and fuller sense than any human teacher can attain, our blessed Redeemer gives this best instruction: *the Lord giveth wisdom; out of his mouth cometh know-*

ledge and understanding : he layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous. There is a special instruction which He gives to His true disciples beyond that which others receive or can give, Matt. xiii. 11—16. xvi. 17. May we constantly look to Him for this saving illumination, and never rest only on the teaching of man.

We encroach on the office of Christ as the Teacher of his Church, when we give to any human being, or to authorities in the church, or any councils that may be called, power to interpret the word infallibly. This great error of the Roman Church is not uncommon in a subordinate degree among Protestants. The Romanists endeavour to support it by what they consider a parallel case, the JUDICIAL POWER to interpret the laws. But Melancthon showed the wide difference between the judicial power committed to a few individuals in a state, and the influences of the Holy Spirit enabling the true followers of Christ to understand the wisdom revealed in the Gospel, which is far beyond the reach of human wisdom.¹

His teaching TRULY SANCTIFIES. Human teaching often fails of its highest ends, and the best instruction of man in the best of truths, may be a stumbling-block to some, and foolishness to others; but it is not so with the Saviour's teaching; when He instructs, he gives *the meekness of wisdom*. He not only enlightens, but he teaches us to deny all sin and live wholly to God. He is himself *the Refiner*, who purifies his people and makes them *zealous of good works*. Those are not under his instruction who think that hope in Him is consistent with allowed sin. He makes the covetous liberal, the deceitful sincere,

¹ See Melancthon's Works, Vol. iv. p. 729, &c.

the dishonest upright, the drunkard sober, the licentious chaste, and the worldly-minded, spiritually-minded. Of this Shepherd all his sheep can say, *He restoreth my soul, He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His names' sake.* Humility is that part of sanctification, for which the most eminent of his servants are peculiarly distinguished. Paul thought himself *the least of the Apostles, and less than the least of all saints.* It is a part of His plan of teaching to let His people first see the folly of their own wisdom, and the insufficiency of their own righteousness, as in the case of Augustine and Lather, and then to bring them with the simplicity of a child to receive His wisdom, and submit to His righteousness. It is very observable that our Divine Teacher does not restore us from our ruin so much by accurate knowledge as by penitence and faith, by love and obedience: by the state of the heart he then rectifies the understanding; he gives a right disposition, and so prepares for a right sentiment. Thus he sanctifies as well as enlightens. Well then may all his people join Nicodemus in asserting, *Rabbi, we know that thou art a Teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest except God be with him.*

We would, in conclusion notice THE RIGHT RECEPTION OF THE LESSONS of this best Teacher.

When Moses and Elijah appeared with our Lord in the Mount of transfiguration, the voice from the cloud said, *This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him:* the Voice seems to set aside Moses, the lawgiver of the Jews, and Elijah, their leading prophet, that the Son might remain the supreme and perpetual Teacher, and we might constantly attend to him,

How then shall we best fulfil this heavenly mandate? Some practical directions may here assist the Christian Student.

Be deeply SENSIBLE OF YOUR NEED OF HIS TEACHING. It is a strong description of the state of men without Christ, *walking in darkness and dwelling in the land of the shadow of death*, (Isaiah ix. 2.) but it is the real condition of all men who have not seen this great light. (John xii. 46.) A man may live in the darkness of heathen lands amidst all the blaze of light that shines in a Christian country, if he neglect and despise the Light of Life. Our minds are dark, our hearts are hard, our prejudices are numerous, our affections are perverted. We cannot learn religion merely by books and human instruction: by natural talent and powers of intellect; or by the letter even of the inspired scripture, or the best explanations of scripture from God's most favoured servants. Even past knowledge will not suffice for present and future exigencies, we are constantly dependant on Christ for fresh supplies of his illuminating and sanctifying grace. We press the necessity of this child-like spirit, of this sense of ignorance, and our own entire want of that instruction which He can give, remembering that solemn thanksgiving of our Redeemer, *I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed them unto babes: even so Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight.* Whenever we perceive our ignorance, let us then at once look up to Him for wisdom: let all our self-wisdom on religion, whether opposed, or added to the divine mind, be seen in its true light as the most egregious folly, and his Gospel have its full triumph in casting

down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

BELIEVE that HE DOES REALLY TEACH all who commit themselves to him. As he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him, so in coming to Christ for instruction, let us have the same precious faith. It is no fabled story; it is a solid, a cheering, a delightful truth. He is not indeed visibly present, but the Christian knows that he does truly and efficiently instruct, and fulfils his own promise, *I will not leave you comfortless, I will come unto you.* As the lodestone, while out of sight, and under a table, will attract the needle, which follows the magnet wherever it moves, so the Saviour, while invisible, is through all impediments really influential on the minds of his people. Let us have faith in Him. Human lessons may be acquired by skill, acuteness, and a good memory, but the instruction of Christ is received through faith. It should greatly assist the Christian's faith to observe in his past experience what has been already done for him. He can say, *one thing I know, whereas I was blind, now I see.* He has already learned much. *We know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true.* What he has already done is but the pledge of what he will do hereafter. If we now know in part, it is an earnest that we shall hereafter know as we are known. Gospel blessings come through faith, and the great difficulty here is so to live by faith, as to realise the presence and wisdom, the power, love, and daily teaching of this Divine Prophet.

Humbly, diligently, and obediently **USE ALL**

APPOINTED MEANS FOR RECEIVING HIS INSTRUCTION. After giving the promise of Divine Teaching the Psalmist says, *Be ye not like the horse or the mule which have no understanding*, and then teaches us willingly and gratefully to receive and submit to divine instruction. So our Lord assures us, *Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.* May we then listen to this great Teacher in every mode in which he teaches his children. Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus, hearing his word, is a beautiful picture of the posture in which the Christian wishes that his soul should constantly abide; always listening to the instructions of Christ. We cannot indeed now literally sit at his feet, but in every portion of scripture which we read, in every faithful sermon which we hear, in every pious book which we peruse, in every visit to a poor believer in Jesus in his affliction, in every part of the Christian's life, we are as it were going to the Saviour and sitting at his feet. Man's teaching where faithful, is not an obstacle to our being taught by Christ, but a means by which he teaches. All other Christian Instructors are sent by him as under shepherds; he is the chief Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. We are not indeed to receive from them any instruction but according to his mind. **What says the Master?** should be our constant sentiment with reference to Christ, as others used it with reference to human authorities. If a Heathen could say, '*Plato is my friend, and Socrates is my friend, but truth is more my friend,*' well may a Christian say, '*Christ is the truth, and Christ is dearer to me than all the world.*' We should indeed infinitely prefer his word before that of any earthly relation, or we are not worthy

of him. He has also multiplied figures, parables, and lessons, by which we may, as it were, ascend step by step, every day and every hour, to constant communion with him. Where can we be without a constant memorial of him? He is the Sun of Righteousness, that illuminates the world, the bread which nourishes to everlasting life, the door by which we enter the sheepfold, the habitation wherein we dwell, the way in which we journey to heaven, and the true vine, united to which we bear fruit. In short he is our light, our life, and glory. To the end of our days we must always remain learners at his feet, and while we act up to knowledge already given, he will continually give us fresh lessons of his love (Ephes. iii. 18, 19).¹ Let us then day by day bring all our perplexities to him, and constantly seek his guidance, and follow his will, so shall we assure our hearts that we are under his teaching.

CHERISH A JOYFUL EXPECTATION OF PERFECT KNOWLEDGE through Christ hereafter. On a large scale he *shall not fail, nor be discouraged till he have set judgment in the earth, and the isles shall wait*

¹ Our Reformers well understood the truths set forth in this chapter, and have embodied them in the following beautiful prayer, which was inserted in the Bibles published in Queen Elizabeth's reign, among prayers to be said in the morning. 'O Lord Jesus Christ, which art the true Sun of the World, evermore arising and never going down, which by thy most wholesome appearing and sight doth bring forth, preserve, nourish, and refresh all things as well that are in heaven as also that are on earth, we beseech thee mercifully and favourably to shine into our hearts, that the night and darkness of sins, and the mists of errors on every side driven away, thou brightly shining within our hearts, we may all our life's space go without any stumbling or offence, and may decently and seemly walk, (as in the day time) being pure and clean from the works of darkness, and abounding in all good works, which God hath prepared for us to walk in, which with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth for ever. Amen.'

for his law. Every individual believer may say, *thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.* He is with his people in this life, and all through the valley of the shadow of death, and when on the borders of the eternal world, he stands ready as it were to receive and welcome them home (Acts vii. 25). If indeed we be Christian Students, we are going to the land of light, we are on our way to those blessed regions where *there is no night, and no darkness.* It is the glorious description of our residence above, *the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof; and the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it.* Let us have a realising anticipation of the day when we shall behold the great Teacher, and *know as we are known.* A transforming and assimilating influence shall accompany the beatific vision; *we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.* The Lamb is the light of the heavenly city; all the communications of light will therefore proceed from him. The Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters. We may well suppose that he who has said, *what I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter,* will remove the veil which now prevents our beholding the beautiful form and proportion of many a sacred truth, and the light and glory of many a dispensation at present hid in the clouds and darkness that are round about him.

Christian Students, rise then to your high vocation. Here is a Teacher incomparably excelling every other Instructor; here is a school infinitely beyond the highest and most renowned school and college here

below, the science is good, not only for time, but for eternity; the honours are not fading but durable; the rewards are not merely earthly and temporal, but also heavenly and everlasting like godliness, his teaching is profitable for all things, having the promise of the life that now is, as well as that which is to come. All may here attain the great prize, and the pursuit of it shall not be full of anxiety and toilsome labour, or the attainment of it leave one aching with in the soul. It is in heaven upon earth to live with Christ here below, and to rejoice in hopes of the glory of God, and we shall find hereafter in his presence fullness of joy. Christian Students, I earnestly desire therefore your confidence, which shall give me recompense of reward, for ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise, for yet a little while, and he that shall come, will come, and will not tarry.

In the meantime then, and till that great Teacher come, and in his light we see light, we conclude with the Apostle's charge to Timothy—

The Lamb which is the centre of the throne shall feed them, and shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. **GIVE ATTENDANCE TO TEACHING**

We may well suppose that he who has said what I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter, will remove the veil which now prevents our beholding the beautiful form and proportion of many a young man and girl, and glory of many a sacred truth, and the light and glory of many a dispensation at present hid in the clouds and darkness that are round about them.

Christian Students, rise then to your high vocation. Here is a Teacher incomparably exceeding every other instructor; here is a school infinitely beyond the highest and most renowned school and college here

ERRATA.

- Page 52, line 11, for 'in,' read 'see.'
99, line 11, for 'authoratative,' read 'authoritative.'
100, line 6, for 'unto,' read 'into.'
211, line 8, for 'works,' read 'work.'
225, line 25, dele 'a.'
242, note, line 4, for 'teneda,' read 'tenenda.'
for 'Patres,' read 'Patris.'
263, note, for 'Buvigny,' read 'Burigny.'
278, note, for 'Hutton,' read 'Whitgift, vol. ii. p. 525.'
288, note, line 1, for 'conkurs,' read 'concur.'
309, line 29, for 'sermons,' read 'sermon.'
324, line 14, for 'Wornock,' read 'Womock.'
446, line 14, for 'Latinæ,' read 'Latina.'

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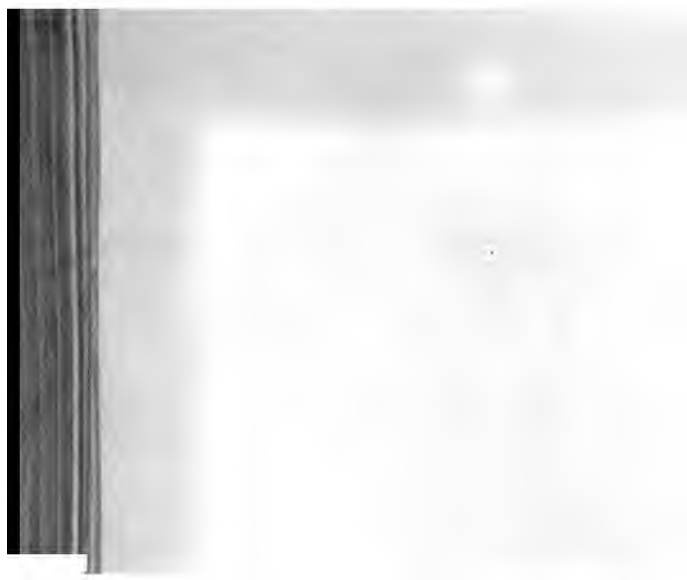
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